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www.kentnews.co.uk October 2, 2011 MID & NORTH KENT EDITION Issue no 471

Fears that Dale Farm travellers may set up camp here

Exclusive by Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

MORE than 400 travellers embroiled in a bitter dispute over the controversial Dale Farm encampment could be forced to move to Kent.

Basildon Council in Essex has been trying for a decade to remove an entire community from the UK's largest illegal travellers' site, and this week returned to the High Court to contest the residents' claims an eviction would constitute a breach of their human rights.

Concerns have now been raised that should the travellers lose their legal battle, they will simply take the short journey over the River Thames to find a new home in Kent.

"There's every possibility they could come to Kent," said Joe Jones, director of the Canterbury Gypsy Support Group and chairman of the international Gypsy Council. "It's only a short hop over the bridge after all, unless the police decide to blockade everywhere like they've already done in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. Who knows what's going to happen? They might even park up on the M25 and block that off.

"Obviously the occupants of Dale Farm have got to go. What we're saying to the council is let them stay there until they've got the planning applications passed to go elsewhere.

"As usual there has been a total failure by local councils to provide permanent accommodation for gypsies and travellers."

Last year a letter signed by all 13 of Kent's district and borough heads – including Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter – was sent to the Government, calling for tougher penalties for people who build without planning

Continued on page 2

Picture: PAUL JERREAT



RETAIL GURU DROPS IN FOR HIGH STREET VISIT

STREETWISE: Mary Portas was in Margate town centre this week – **SEE INSIDE**

EDUCATION

Seaside towns 'lack energy'

COUNTY Hall education chiefs say they are working hard to tackle the educational problems faced by white working class communities living seaside towns.

It comes after criticisms from a government schools advisor about achievement in coastal communities. **PAGE 2**

WILDLIFE

Massive fall in bird numbers

WILD bird numbers have dropped dramatically in Kent, according to the RSPB.

Lack of woodland management, climate change, high human population density, and intense use of land and water resources have all been blamed. And the EU has also come under fire. **PAGE 3**

SPORT

Kedwell eyes Gills goal rush

DANNY Kedwell believes Gillingham's change in formation will see him get on the scoresheet more regularly.

The striker struggled for goals while playing on his own up front but netted twice in the 3-1 win against Burton last weekend as the Gills switched to a 4-4-2 system. **PAGE 75**

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INSIDE

News.....2-25
Comment/Feedback 26-27
Business Week.....29-31
Keep Kent Working . 32-33
Jobs & Notices..... 34-40
Sport.....74-75

INSIDE Kent Weekend

Interview 43
Kent Remembered 45
Food and drink 47-49
Walks 51

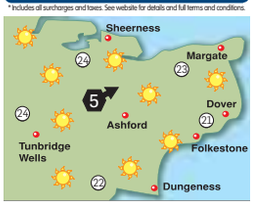
LEISURE
Attractions, events, stage, exhibitions, theatre, arts, ... 50-57

HOMES
Property..... 58-59

MOTORS
Driving 62-73

WEATHER SPONSORED BY





TODAY: It will be dry, fine and warm with some sun. A light wind. Max temp 22-25C (72-77F). **TONIGHT:** Dry with lengthy clear spells. Min temp 12-15C (54-59F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	02.42	6.6	15.03	6.6
Margate	03.41	4.7	16.06	4.9
St Mary's	08.37	5.5	21.01	5.2

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 24C	Min 13C
Tuesday	Max 19C	Min 9C
Wednesday	Max 16C	Min 8C
Thursday	Max 16C	Min 7C
Friday	Max 16C	Min 8C
Saturday	Max 17C	Min 8C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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DALE FARM

Calls for new rules governing traveller sites

Continued from front page

permission. The document made a particular point about caravans and mobile homes, stating that current policy "weighs against what is acceptable and explainable".

This week Cllr Carter agreed that the Dale Farm travellers could soon end up in Kent.

"At the moment there seem to be two different sets of planning rules – one for the gypsies and one for Joe Public," he said.

"Nobody knows where they will go and it's a concern because we are struggling to cope with the number of gypsies in the county already.

"No council has identified as many permanent sites as planning laws say we should because, quite reasonably, there is always enormous public opposition with any location.

"And if we asked the travellers themselves how many pitches they require, the number would be three or four times greater to accommodate all their family members.

"We need new rules setting out an intelligent and appropriate number of sites."

The planned clearance of the six-acre Dale Farm site was halted last week when lawyers for the travellers obtained a High Court injunction preventing bailiffs moving in,

They argued that eviction would have grave consequences for children living on the site and their schooling, and those with medical conditions.

"I don't even want to contemplate them coming to Kent," said Cllr Andrew Bowles, a member of Kent's gypsy and traveller advisory board and leader of Swale council.

"It would be deeply unpopular among the indigenous population, especially among those who pay council tax.

"We've been working on how to provide land for travellers for years, but at the end of the day this is a democracy and you can't impose sites on people.

"We don't have a queue of communities willing to take on gypsy encampments."



UNWELCOME: Communities are reluctant to welcome traveller sites, say politicians

EDUCATION

Schools tzar says seaside schools face biggest challenges to success

By Marijke Cox
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EDUCATION chiefs say they are working hard to tackle the challenges faced by coastal schools following stinging remarks by the schools' commissioner who accused seaside communities of a "lack of energy".

Liz Sidwell, a respected former headteacher recruited by education secretary Michael Gove to improve schools, accused coastal towns of having low aspirations. She said seaside areas posed the biggest concern under the reforms, where she said white working classes were "the most challenging culture".

Department for Education figures showed white children from low-income families performed the worst in GCSEs last summer.

Kent County Council cabinet member for education, learning and skills Cllr Mike Whiting said although Ms Sidwell was right to acknowledge the challenges in some of the schools, it should not distract from the hard work carried out to enhance the lives of young people.

"Some children who come to coastal areas may arrive with attainment levels below the national average for their age," he said. "Reasons for this can vary enormously, from children having particular emotional or behavioural needs, to social circumstances or not having English as their first language.



NO ENERGY: A 'lack of energy' has been blamed for poor performance in some schools in the county's coastal areas

"Headteachers and others recognise the challenges and work with partners to support families with low aspirations.

"Teachers have to be on top of their game to change hearts and minds and provide the opportunity for young people to catch up with their peers."

He also stressed that many coastal town schools were celebrating significantly improved or high GCSE results.

Gravesend-based education expert Peter Read, who experienced working in a school in an east Kent seaside town, said it was a fact that coastal schools had their work cut out.

"Everyone knows headteachers in these areas have to work harder. If they don't deliver, the schools go under very quickly," he said. "Walmer Science College, near Deal, has gone into special measures because of poor leadership, whereas King Ethelbert near Margate is under good leadership and doing well.

"Leadership is always going to be key. There is no doubt the south and east Kent coastal communities are deprived and have been since the heyday of the English holiday resort, and therefore aspirations may well be low."

Education commissioner Ms Sidwell said areas with a "mono-culture", such as seaside towns, had communities with less aspiration to work or go to the city or abroad, and that this had to be turned around to ensure schools changed.

But Conservative MP for Thanet North, Roger Gale, who represents the coastal towns of Margate and Herne Bay, did not accept her comments.

"Ms Sidwell is entitled to her view and there may be coastal areas where there is a problem, but if she went to Herne Bay High, Ursuline in Westgate, Hartsdown in Margate I don't think she'd find a lack of energy. She'd find a lack of investment, like at Hartsdown, which missed out on Building Schools for the Future funding. It is discouraging when a school is falling down and needs to be rebuilt.

"There may well be problems in other coastal areas, but we're very lucky in my constituency.

"What is important is quality of teaching and dedication of staff, in particular the headteacher. I can't underestimate the importance of headteachers."

Labour spokesman for Kent, Paul Clark, former MP for Gillingham and Rainham, said he feared aspirations would be knocked if youngsters were unable to find work or gain skills.

He added: "Michael Gove's drive to go back to traditional schooling is focusing on the most academically gifted and is going to undermine the opportunities of those young people with skills and aspirations but not academic ability."



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ENTERTAINMENT

Prince Charming is ready to Stand and Deliver all the hits

By Chris Britcher
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IT is a statistic which will make those of a certain age cringe, but Adam Ant's career now spans a remarkable five decades.

From the excitement and fury of the punk explosion in the 70s, to the pomp and splendour of his 80s heyday, he is a music icon; his fashion choices as era defining as his string of hits.

After recent years where his mental health – he suffers from bipolar disorder – has made more headlines than his legacy, he is back on stage and playing to sell-out audiences.

And for the first time in his long career, he is coming to Kent to perform many of his hits such as Prince Charming, Stand and Deliver, Puss N Boots, and Goody Two Shoes.

His show at Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall Theatre in December will see his six-piece band playing hits, rarities from the earliest days of Adam and the Ants, and songs from his upcoming album – Adam Ant is the Blueblack Hussar in Marrying the Gunner's Daughter.

And at 56, he is returning to a county full of childhood memories.

"I used to spend my holidays in Birchington when I was a little kid," he explains.

"I used to go there between the ages of seven and 10. My dad was a chauffeur and his boss used to have a house on the coast – which is still there. I used to go down there, play on the beach, and muck about.

"My daughter's grandparents live in Kent so I've been down there a few times. Dover Castle's a knockout. It was great – I've had a really good time down there."

And he is promising a good night out: "I try and give a good night's entertainment, keep it simple, that's all I can do. We do all the hits, because that's what people want.

"I don't do medleys, and there's not a big stage show. There's just me and the six-piece band.

"The process is to get out there and give people what they want and what we want. The equation is quite simple. If we enjoy it, then it tends to be the case the audience enjoys it."

The new album is due for a release on Ant's own label later this year, just don't expect to find it on iTunes.

He exlpained: "It's a double-vinyl album; traditional beautiful cover, sleeve notes, lots to read while you're listening, a CD and a box set. I'm going old school and I'm not doing downloads.

"I'm making a point. I'm a songwriter. And everyone knows that music which gets downloaded for free means the songwriter doesn't get paid. And that's not right. It's robbery."

Not that his legacy doesn't reap rewards. "I wrote the songs so they make money," he says. "I got Goody Two Shoes into Shrek 3 and that pays the rent for a year. Robbie Williams did a cover version of Ant Music, and that's the rent for another year."

■ **Adam Ant plays at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Friday, December 2. Tickets are available from the box office on 01892 530613 or go to www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.**

■ **For an extended version of this interview, see www.kentnews.co.uk.**



GOODY TWO SHOES: Adam Ant is back on tour

WILDLIFE

Decline of wild birds reflects drop in our own quality of life

THE numbers of farmland and woodland birds in the county have declined dramatically.

Birds of most concern include farmland birds such as the corn bunting and lapwing, and woodland species such as the hawfinch, the lesser spotted woodpecker, marsh tit, and willow tit – which has virtually disappeared from the county.

The survey carried out by the RSPB and the British Trust for Ornithology, shows how populations of birds using woodland, farmland and other habitats has changed across the South East since 1994.

Farmland birds have declined by 28 per cent, while woodland birds have fallen by 19 per cent. Overall bird numbers are down by 12 per cent.

RSPB South East conservation programme manager Steve Gilbert said: "It's worrying that we've lost more than a quarter of our farmland birds and a fifth of our woodland birds in this region.



ALMOST DISAPPEARED: The willow tit is an increasingly rare sight in our countryside

"There are a variety of factors that could be causing this, including lack of woodland management, woodlands drying out, which may be linked to climate change, as well as high human population density and intense use of land and water resources."

Last winter's severe weather hit birds particularly hard. The ending of the set-aside scheme in 2007, where farmers left areas of their land uncultivated in return for EU grants, could also be a factor in the decline of farmland birds.

Mr Gilbert said: "What these trends tell us is that it's vital the Government addresses the serious issues of planning reform and climate change, and helps farmers make their land more wildlife friendly through effective, targeted agri-environment schemes."

Martin Harper, RSPB conservation director, said: "What is shocking is when you look beyond the graphs, you realise these figures are about the lives of birds and the figures chart the ability of birds to survive in our countryside; the place where we go for walks and grow our food.

"If some of these birds are struggling to survive that may say a lot about the quality of our own countryside and our own quality of life."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gold rip-off warning

PEOPLE selling second-hand gold are being ripped off, says Medway Trading Standards.

An investigation found that 40 per cent of jewellers, pawn brokers and secondhand shops, checked in Medway had inaccurate or unapproved scales, and the prices being paid showed big variations.

The lowest price offered for the 14 grams of scrap gold was £95 while the highest price offered was £130.

Teen admits killing

A TEENAGER has admitted manslaughter.

Charlie McBride, 19, of Brighton Road, Sutton, Surrey appeared at Maidstone Crown Court where he admitted killing 25-year-old Richard Collier, whose father John is a Shepway Conservative councillor.

Mr Collier, of Wellington Crescent, Ramsgate, died from a head injury caused by McBride during an assault in Marine Gardens, Margate, at around 2am on Saturday, June 25.

Hospital merger fears

PROPOSALS to integrate Medway Maritime and Darent Valley hospitals are being considered by both NHS hospital trusts. Patient watchdog Kent LINk says it has assurances accident and emergency, and maternity services, will be retained on both hospital sites, but wants promises a full range of services will be protected on both sites. It is holding a public meeting on October 19 at 5.30pm at Fleet Leisure Centre, Nelson Road, Northfleet.



Gerald
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SHOPPING

The queen of shops has her sights set on our high street

By Marijke Cox
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QUEEN of shops Mary Portas has paid a visit to Margate as part of a research mission to help stop the decline of the dwindling high street.

The town is one of only a handful of areas featuring in the national review, which has been commissioned by David Cameron and Nick Clegg.

Television presenter and retail guru Ms Portas told KoS that in Margate – where 36 per cent of shops were empty in the first half of 2011 – there are two clear parts to the high street.

"There's the fantastic, bustling Old Town and then you get to the other end and it's a very bleak picture," she said.

Asked whether it would ever return to its former glory when up against competition such as out-of-town shopping outlets like Westwood Cross, she said high streets in general would not be the same as before.

"I don't have the answer yet; part of my research is listening to retailers and understanding what could be a solution.

"This review is vitally important. If we don't look at regenerating our town centres there will be problems."

Ms Portas, star of BBC Two's Mary Queen of Shops and Channel 4's Mary Portas: Secret Shopper, said it was important for society that high streets were regenerated.

"With town centre vacancy rates doubling over the last two years, the need to take action to save high streets has never been starker," she said. "I am encouraging everyone who cares about the future of the high street to have their say.

"Margate is a town that has had it tougher than any other high street in the country but it is also a great example of one that is fighting back and I want to draw on this spirit and the creativity of those involved."

The review is being carried out for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to identify what government, local authorities and businesses can do to promote the development of more prosperous and diverse high streets.

Leader of Thanet District Council, Cllr Bob Bayford, said he was delighted Margate was forming part of the review.

"Nationally the face of retail is changing and we need to do everything we can to address that," he said. "Here in Margate we have an interesting story. At a time when shop vacancy rates are increasing we've seen Margate Old Town flourish with over 35 new businesses, all unique, setting up in the last 18 months.

"Much of that is down to the Turner effect and it's something we're keen to encourage, as boutique shopping gives visitors one more reason to come to the town. We don't want to just be another clone.

"We've been talking to Mary about how more can be done to encourage independent retailers and what support we feel Margate needs."

Business minister Edward Davey stressed that the high street should be at the heart of every community, "bringing people together, providing essential services and creating jobs and investment".

"Mary's review will look into many important areas including how we can adopt new business models for the high street to fit the needs of the modern shopper and how we increase the number of small and independent retailers doing business in town centres."

■ **For news and sport see www.yourthanet.co.uk.**

Picture: PAUL JERREAT



WHAT'S IN STORE? Mary Portas on her visit to Margate town centre

TRANSPORT

Southeastern stockpiles 4,000 glow sticks to tackle winter power cuts

GLOW sticks will be handed out to rail passengers during lengthy delays caused by snow.

Some 4,000 will be stored on Southeastern trains this winter to enable people to see in the dark if the power goes out.

The plan is one of several to be implemented by the operator in partnership with Network Rail, to ensure minimal disruption to passengers in the event of another bout of severe snow.

In addition, a further 40,000 metres of conductor rail heating has been installed on the Southeastern network, and there are now eight anti-icing trains compared to six last year.

A further 20 passenger trains have also been fitted with anti-icing tanks, and three new four-wheel drive vehicles have been bought to help engineers reach stranded trains more quickly.

Southeastern managing director Charles Horton said: "Heavy snow and ice represents a significant challenge for running trains on the third rail network. While there is always likely to be disruption during severe weather, we believe the work we have been doing with Network Rail should enable us to keep more services operating, help us recover more quickly from disruption, and support efforts to improve the quality of information we provide to passengers."

Southeastern and Network Rail have also purchased 100 extra salt bins, 220 hand-pushed snow ploughs and 16 motorised ploughs, as well as 4,000 foil blankets for stranded passengers.

The plans were unveiled at a meeting in Westminster organised by Maidstone and the Weald Tory MP Helen Grant.

She said: "Together Network Rail and Southeastern have clearly worked hard to try to avoid a repetition of the shambles we all endured last winter. I really hope we don't get the weather we had last year, but if we do it appears there has been much better preparation."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rare bug discovered

A rare insect never seen before in Britain has been found at a nature park in Kent.

The horehound shieldbug was discovered by photographer Jason Elmore at Kent Wildlife Trust's park at Tyland Barn in Sandling near Maidstone, where at least 50 more specimens have since been found. Expert Dr Tristan Bantock said: "The horehound shieldbug is one of many species of insects which have recently arrived in Britain as a result of climatic warming."

Cricketers' patrol boost

REGULAR security patrols are helping protect Ashford Town Cricket Club after it left counting the cost of £10,000 of theft and vandalism.

The club had pipework and other fittings stolen in a raid officials say cost them thousands.

It prompted cricket fan John Howland, managing director of Ashford-based Swift Security, to include the club's ground at Steeds Lane, Kingsnorth, on his company's regular rural patrols – free of charge.

Teen on murder charge

CALEB White, 19, from Cornwall Close, Maidstone, has been charged with the murder of 21-year-old Tom Crittenden.

Police and paramedics were called to Sutton Road, Maidstone, at around 2.15am on Sunday, September 25.

Mr Crittenden died at the scene. A post mortem examination found the cause of his death to be a single stab wound.



Picture: ED HILL



ENTERTAINMENT

Curtain rises at city's new Marlowe Theatre

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@archant.co.uk

A NEW cultural landmark was unveiled in Canterbury this week when the £25.6 million Marlowe Theatre opened its doors to the world's press.

It is hoped the building will make the city a new cultural Mecca, drawing audiences not just from the county but from as far afield as London.

Janice McGuinness, head of culture and enterprise at Canterbury City Council said: "We are delighted to be opening one of the largest cultural projects in the country. This is a third millennium theatre for a first millennium city."

The new Marlowe has an increased capacity of 1,200 seats alongside a flexible studio seating around 150 people for smaller performances.

The theatre has been designed by Keith Williams, who praised backers for deciding to have a vision of a modern design for Canterbury.

He said: "The Marlowe Theatre is that very rare thing – a major new contemporary theatre building within a magnificent historic cathedral city.

"Its architecture is radical yet it has been conceived to fit comfortably within its historic surroundings and I am confident that it will have a transformative effect on arts and culture in the South East and beyond."

The large theatre dominates the quaint streets of the city around it.

The improved facilities mean it can now attract larger productions, collaborating with companies such as the Philharmonia Orchestra and Glyndebourne Opera.

James Williams from the Philharmonia Orchestra said: "To have a new venue like this which is built with the audience and performer perspective in mind is wonderful. These opportunities come along very rarely. It's great that at a time of austerity Canterbury is investing in culture."

The new theatre can cater for than more than 80 musicians in its orchestra pit. The Philharmonia will be performing at the theatre's opening gala on Tuesday and Glyndebourne will perform regularly.

Around 140 people are employed at the new theatre.

■ **For more headlines see www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.**

Picture: TIM STUBBINGS



OPEN: Glyndebourne singer Rosie Aldridge tries out the stage

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News

PUBLIC SERVICES

Increased social care costs will 'worsen mental health'

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

COUNTY Hall has come under attack after controversial plans to raise the cost of providing adult social care in Kent were given the green light.

From next April Kent County Council will increase the amount of available income taken into account when working out how much to charge a person, and will ask mental health patients to contribute for the first time.

Adult social care sevices include day care centres, help with cleaning and shopping, equipment for the home, and a wide range of other sevices. Transport will also be included in the services that can be charged for, in an attempt to save about £2.9 million a year.

Cabinet member for adult social care, Cllr Graham Gibbens, approved the proposals last week despite receiving thousands of objections during the 16-week public consultation.

He had previously received criticism for doing the same over the closure of several care homes for the elderly.



CHARGES: Concerns have been raised the new payment system will isolate more adults

Peter Webber – chief executive of North West Kent Carers Support Services – said the increased charges would hit society's most vulnerable.

In regards to charging people with mental health problems, he said: "People do not to recognise they need support. Can you imagine how much more difficult it will be if the person is then charged for the services they are reluctant to accept?

"This may lead to worsening mental health, resulting in a hospital admission or worse."

Mr Webber added that other social care recipients may stop attending day care centres as a result of the changes, leading to greater social exclusion.

Plans to increase the cost of adult social care were agreed as part of the KCC budget earlier this year, but the finer details have only just been finalised.

The authority says those eligible to pay for their care will be individually assessed. How much they pay will vary but the council will increase the amount of available income taken into account from 85 to 100 per cent.

Cllr Gibbens said: "I know many people will be concerned about this decision. However, there is a lot of flexibility in the way it will be put in place and no-one will be asked to pay more than an assessment shows they can afford.

"By keeping eligibility criteria at moderate and making these changes, we can keep our commitment to help people maintain their independence and make their own choices."



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It uses airflow to dry out walls rather than toxic chemicals, which are used in 'traditional' damp proofing systems. It is also a permanent solution, guaranteed for 20 years, so it won't need replacing.

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Mrs F, Essex

"So far there is a great improvement."
Mrs H, Sussex

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Mr D, Liverpool

CONFERENCE

Meet 16-year-old Rory, your future MP

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk



Picture: PAUL CLARKE

THE YOUTH VOTE: Maidstone schoolboy Rory Weal is watched by shadow chancellor Ed Ball and party leader Ed Miliband at the party 's conference

A TEENAGE politician who brought the house down at this week's Labour Party conference is refusing to get carried away with his new-found fame.

Rory Weal, 16, from Maidstone, received a standing ovation from the thousands in attendance after delivering a powerful speech in which he slammed the Coalition for trebling university tuition fees and scrapping the Future Jobs Fund and Education Maintenance Allowance.

The show-stealing performance, which was replayed countless times on television on Monday, came just weeks after the Oakwood Park Grammar School student was tipped for the top in an Observer article entitled 'Spot the next Prime Minister'.

But despite finding himself thrust into the national spotlight, Rory told KoS he was keeping his feet firmly on the ground.

When asked if he saw himself as a future MP, Rory said: "I wouldn't rule anything out but I'd like to get my A-levels out of the way before I start thinking about that sort of thing.

"It was really nice to get such a response at the conference but the main thing was to get these issues on the agenda. Anything that can flag them up is a good thing.

"Before I was picked to speak I went through the sort of thing I wanted to say, but I ended up adding extra bits as I got angrier about the situation. It was a bit nerve-racking to begin with but I felt fine once I got up there. I was just pleased I didn't trip over to be honest."

While Labour leader Ed Miliband and shadow chancellor Ed Balls were the highest-profile speakers of the conference in Liverpool, it was Rory who grabbed the attention of the masses.

Accusing the Government of taking "a bit of a dislike" to young people, the youth delegate for Maidstone and the Weald drew comparisons with current Foreign Secretary William Hague when, as a teenager, he delivered a similarly powerful speech at the 1977 Conservative party conference.

Rory told his fellow Labour supporters: "Two-and-a-half years ago, the home I had lived in since birth was repossessed. We had nothing – no money, no savings. I owe my entire well being and that of my family's to the welfare state; that very same welfare state that is being ruthlessly ripped apart by this Tory-led Government."

Afterwards Rory told KoS he was pleased to be able to provide a voice for young people.

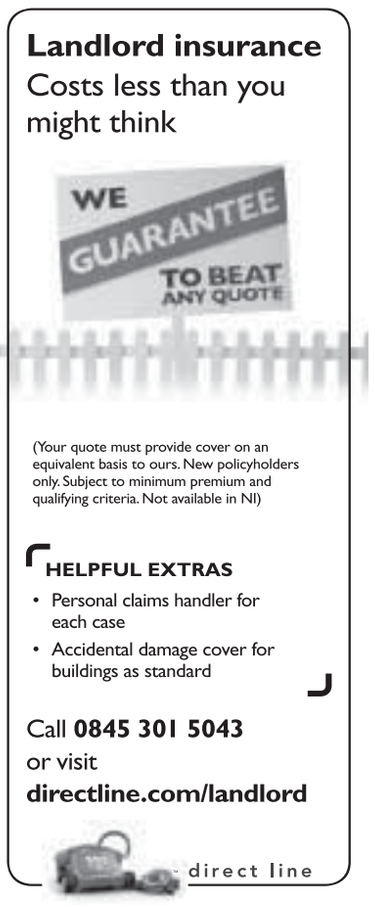
He added: "Too often our views are not heard, partly because most of us are not old enough to vote, but also because a lot of young people feel intimidated by the whole political structure.

"Politics needs to be made more accessible to people of my age group, and lowering the voting age to 16 would be a step in the right direction."

■ **For all the latest news and sport headlines got to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.**







HEALTH

‘Dereliction of duty’ over doctors’ flu jabs is a just a counting error, say NHS chiefs

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk



DANGER: Flu carrying doctors put vulnerable patients at risk

HEALTH chiefs have dismissed claims just 2.1 per cent of doctors in east Kent received the winter flu jab last year.

Following the release of figures for every NHS trust in the country, Dr Lindsey Davies – president of the UK Faculty of Public Health – said staff who did not get vaccinated against the bug were guilty of “complete dereliction of duty” and could endanger the lives of at-risk patients including babies, pregnant woman and the elderly.

But NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent says it believes a data collection error is to blame for the low take-up numbers, which are among the lowest in the UK and also significantly worse than neighbouring primary care trusts NHS Medway (34.4 per cent) and NHS West Kent (25.3 per cent).

Dr Davies told the national press: “If a vulnerable patient gets the flu, they could die – it’s as simple as that.

“That’s a danger at the moment. The patient isn’t well to start with, so if a doctor infects their patient – especially if they are chronically unwell, very elderly, pregnant, have a breathing condition or are a young baby – then that patient could die.

“It’s a complete dereliction of duty for any health professional not to have the flu vaccine because as well as having a duty to treat patients, they also have a duty to keep them from harm. They are also at risk of being absent from work, completely avoidably.”

According to the NHS figures, just 34.7 per cent of healthcare workers nationally received the jab last year, even though the potentially fatal swine flu was the predominant strain over the winter months.

Health trade unions and the Department of Health are now backing a campaign to tackle low immunisation rates among frontline staff, which Kent’s PCTs are also supporting.

Dr Declan O’Neill, director of health improvement for the county, said: “We have looked at the information indicating that only 2.1 per cent of doctors in Eastern and Coastal Kent were vaccinated against flu last winter. We believe it is probably due to a local data collection fault rather than the actual picture of immunised doctors.

“We believe we have discovered the source of the fault and are taking steps to correct it. Based on the experience of previous years, we would not have expected the picture to be that different from the other parts of Kent and Medway.

“However, we would like to see a much higher uptake of immunisation across the county. We urge all frontline NHS and social care staff to be vaccinated against flu. It protects them and reduces the possibility of them passing the virus to patients.

“Public Health is working with all the organisations which provide healthcare in Kent, including hospital trusts and GP practices, to improve immunisation rates this year.”

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT

Cardboard box firm fined over worker’s fall

CARDBOARD box company WE Roberts (Corrugated) Ltd in Northfleet has been fined more than £20,000 after a worker fell and suffered severe head injuries. The incident took place on August 27, 2009, when the worker was trying to pull a pallet of boxes across his trailer, the pallet strapping snapped, and he fell onto the pavement. The firm admitted breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act.

DEATH

Police probe as man’s body found at seafront

THE body of a man was found on Margate seafront. It was first seen in the sea on Wednesday evening close to the harbour area.

Police are treating the death as unexplained.

A spokesman a said: “Kent Police were called at 6.23pm to the seafront at the harbour area. Officers will now be carrying out a full investigation to identify the man and the circumstances surrounding his death.”

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COMPETITION

Winning pictures capture county's beauty





AMATEUR photographers inspired to capture places and landscapes of Kent submitted more than 200 pictures for the Kent Crisps and KoS summer photography competition.

Quex Foods, producer of Kent Crisps, judged entries and commented on the high standard of images and ideas.

John Hunt from Hawkhurst came first with his oast house scene, he won £250 of Jessops photography vouchers.

Second place went to Charlie Christie from Maidstone, for her image of a family on a beach. She receives £100 of Jessops vouchers.

Runners-up who each receive £50 of vouchers plus Kent Crisps and Quex Park tickets are: Mary Mackins, Tunbridge Wells, with Whitstable boat at sunset; Emily Winkworth, Ramsgate, with Viking Bay; and Win Dalton, Ashford, with Bluebells at Challock.

Quex Foods managing director Anthony Curwen said: "Our winners stood out through their combination of character, colour and something personal in each image; they are all places and moments that say Kent to us."



PERFECT: The main image is John Hunt's first place photo, below is Charlie Christie's shot. Top right is runner-up Mary Mackins' picture taken at Whitstable

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by Steiff

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ENVIRONMENT

Conservationists' final push against planning reforms

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

THE National Trust has issued a last-ditch plea for people to support its campaign against the Government's controversial planning reforms.

Led by Tunbridge Wells MP Greg Clark, the proposed National Planning Policy Framework streamlines more than 1,000 pages of existing rules down to just 52 and contains a presumption in favour of "sustainable development".

The plans also state that only councils with agreed local development plans – less than half of UK town hall have one – will be able to refuse development on greenfield sites.

Mr Clark – Conservative minister for cities – says the reforms are needed to boost growth and provide more homes, but an alliance of conservation charities are concerned about the impact of the changes on open spaces and countryside.

"If adopted, this policy will pave the way for countless damaging development schemes in our countryside," said Hilary McGrady, director for the National Trust in Kent.

"Of course we need development and economic growth, but not at any price.

"Kent is already under pressure for development and precious greenfield sites around towns such as Ashford and Tunbridge Wells should not be up for grabs to every developer and volume house builder.

"We are now in a race against time to stop these reforms, and I urge everyone to make their voice heard."

The National Trust plans to submit a petition to ministers when a public consultation on the NPPF ends on October 17, and is urging people to sign up by October 7.

Members of the public can sign online at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/planning or in person at National Trust-owned properties such as Chartwell near Sevenoaks, and Scotney Castle near Lamberhurst.

Meanwhile, the chief executive of a Canterbury wildlife park is the author of a paper on land taxation discussed at the Lib Dem party conference last week.

Wildwood boss Peter Smith wrote a report for the ALTER (Action for Land Taxation and Economic Reform) group outlining how switching to a Land Value Tax (LVT) system would not only be beneficial for the economy, but would also help to protect wildlife by encouraging landowners to use their land in ways that benefit wildlife, rather than in ways that destroy it.

"Replacing income tax and taxes on real wealth with an LVT on all land in the UK will not only create jobs and boost the economy, but is the key to protecting our wildlife and conservation of natural resources," he said.

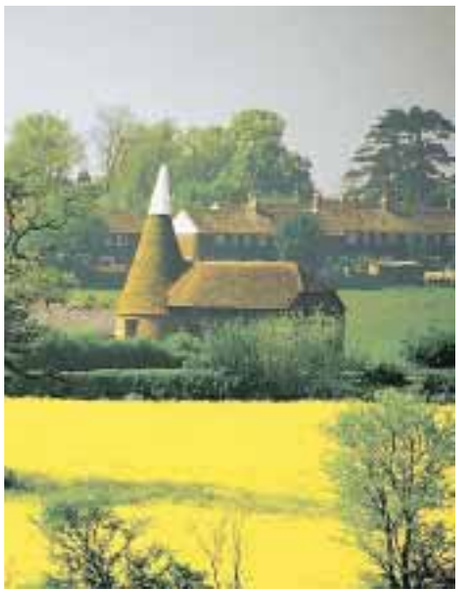
"The idea of LVT is not a new one; in fact it has been debated by politicians and economists for decades. It has had support from many high profile figures such as Lloyd George, Sir Winston Churchill and even Albert Einstein.

"In today's bleak economic times LVT is the clear answer to cutting unemployment, rescuing our economy from recession and saving wildlife."

■ **Rainham and Gillingham Tory MP Rehman Chishti has written to Mr Clark demanding new wording in the planning policy to offer greater protection to playing fields.**

The move has been backed by Sittingbourne and Sheppey Tory MP Gordon Henderson, who said: "There are relatively few playing fields in Sittingbourne and Sheppey and those we have must be preserved for use by both children and adults.

"I am keen to encourage my constituents to use the playing fields we have in the area as much as possible, in particular, for sporting activities as they will only have a long term future if they are fully utilised."



SCENE-SETTER: This could be under threat from reform

X FACTOR

Teen singing sensation closes in on making live X Factor finals

WESTGATE-ON-SEA youngster Luke Lucas is within a whisker of making it into the live finals of the X Factor after getting through boot camp.

The 16-year-old failed to dazzle as he had done in the first audition, but did enough in last weekend's show to convince judges he deserved a shot at the big prize.

He will now be one of the final eight in the boys group who travelled to Los Angeles to be mentored by Take That star Gary Barlow.

The youngster had won a standing ovation at his opening audition at London's the O2 to win a place at the tough boot camp stage of the competition, where the hopefuls were whittled down further.

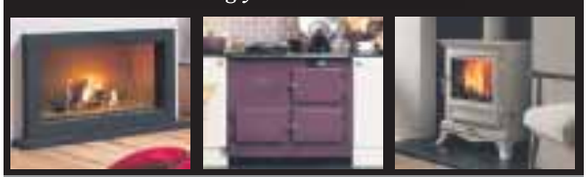
But he stumbled with a disappointing performance of Cee-Lo Green's Forget You during the group challenge – which left the judges pondering his future.

However, they were so impressed with his opening audition they agreed to give him another chance and put him through to the next round of the contest.



ON SONG: Luke Lucas

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DOCUMENTARY

Oscar winner plans new film to put pride back in his home town

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

AN OSCAR-winning documentary maker has called on the people of Margate to have more pride in their town.

Arnold Schwartzman – who scooped a 1981 Academy Award for his Holocaust film Genocide – grew up in the once-thriving seaside resort and says he is "sick and tired" of hearing people complain about its bad points.

The graphic designer moved to Hollywood more than 30 years ago, but has returned to Kent to film a new documentary entitled Margate Paradiso, which will mix archive footage with new interviews to show how the town has changed over the years.

"The main infrastructure of Margate is still there," said Mr Schwartzman.

"It still has wonderful sunsets and beautiful beaches, and they're going to rebuild Dreamland. I don't think it will necessarily become a holiday destination again, but it has great potential as an educational and cultural centre, which it's very rapidly becoming.

"I get sick and tired every time I go on YouTube and see these amateur filmmakers going around showing all the bad parts. Why show the seedy side of it?

"I know it's easy for me to say living in Hollywood, but I grew up in Margate and spent the best days of my life there.

"I see a great future for the town and the new Turner Contemporary art gallery will absolutely help that along. So many people want to go and see it, even in Hollywood."

Mr Schwartzman is a governor of the Kent-based University for the Creative Arts and is producing Margate Paradiso alongside another governor, Uwe Derksen.

As in the hit film Cinema Paradiso, the town's cinema projection booth will become the central set of the movie and the story will be told through the use of film clips and still images. These will be combined with contemporary footage plus interviews with a number of people who will share their memories of Margate's past.

"It's incredible how much material there is," said Mr Schwartzman.

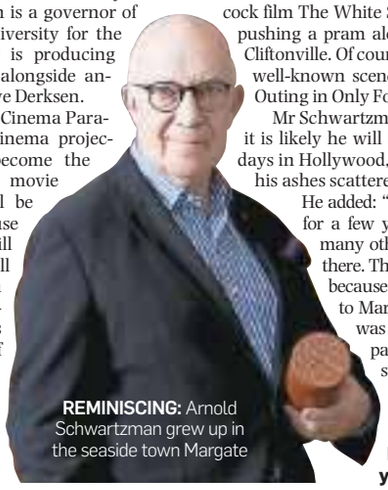
"There's everything from feature films made here to early publicity films encouraging people to come here on holiday.

"For example, Thursday's Children was a documentary about the Royal School for the Deaf in Margate, which won an Oscar in 1955, and there's a scene in the 1923 Hitchcock film The White Shadow with someone pushing a pram along the promenade in Cliftonville. Of course, there are also more well-known scenes, like the Jolly Boys' Outing in Only Fools and Horses."

Mr Schwartzman, 75, said that while it is likely he will live out the rest of his days in Hollywood, he would like to have his ashes scattered in Margate.

He added: "I lived in Santa Monica for a few years, and there are so many other British people living there. They call it Santa Margate because it suffered a similar fate to Margate at one time. But it was developed and now it's packed all the time. I can see that happening with Margate once developers realise the potential of the place."

■ More news at www.yourthanet.co.uk.



REMINISCING: Arnold Schwartzman grew up in the seaside town Margate



HIGH HOPES: Margate has great future according to Schwartzman

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News

COMPETITION

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CHARITY

£40k gig for Demelza

A charity concert which featured the likes of Katherine Jenkins, McFly, The Sugababes and X Factor star Stacey Solomon raised more than £40,000 for Kent charity Demelza.

The charity's first ever music festival in June, Music on the Hill, took place in June at Kings Hill in West Malling. Demelza provides support and care for life-limited children, and their families.

AGRICULTURE

Meet the Lady of New York flying the flag for UK's farming industry

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

WHEN the New York-born widow of a former basketball team owner moved to Kent with her second husband, she found herself immersed in a rural life a world away from the Empire State.

Growing up with severe learning difficulties, few could have predicted Phyllis Kane would go on to become one of the pioneers of British farming and a staunch supporter of traditional country values.

But as the owner of the 4,500-acre Lees Court Estate in Faversham – the location of this week's East Kent Ploughing Match – the businesswoman known today as The Countess Sondes is continuing to prove people wrong.

"I followed my heart when I met the man who would become my second husband (Henry Herbert, the fifth Earl Sondes)," she said.

"But on his death (in 1996) it was like being thrown in at the deep end as someone with no background in farming, I didn't have that depth of knowledge, and it was out of ignorance that I had to think in different ways. I do go back to New York regularly, but this is very much my life now and always will be. I still have close family and friends in America, but continuing the way of rural life in Kent is absolutely central to who I am today."

In addition to the ploughing, Wednesday's event showcased horse-drawn ploughing, a foxhound and beagle parade, fresh food stands, and more.

Visitors also had the chance to look behind the scenes of one of Britain's most forward-thinking estates, which specialises in non-food crops for use in heavy industry, medicine, beauty products, and bio-fuel.

But perhaps of most importance to Lady Sondes was the presentation of a "sustainable model for the countryside", whereby a number of partners agreed to work together for the good of the rural community.

These included Kent Wildlife Trust, the National Gamekeepers' Organisation, the Women's Food and Farming Union, Hollowshore Fisheries, and others.

Lady Sondes, whose first husband was then-Boston Celtics owner Robert Schmertz, said it was vital such organisations work together to ensure British farming survives.

"It's a very difficult time for agriculture and, like so much else, the direction of the industry seems to be going towards larger and larger farms," she said.

"But we at Lees Court have always championed small farmers, as they are closest to the land and most knowledgeable about the issues affecting it.

"We are trying to highlight a sustainable model for the countryside that involves rural organisations working together, no matter how different they may be. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts and collectively we have a better chance to battle for what we believe in."

■ **See www.yourswale.co.uk for more news and sport.**



CONCRETE VALUES: Lady Sondes immersed herself in the ways of UK farming after the death of her husband in 1996, and is a champion of smaller farms





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News

EDUCATION

Pensions row will see second round of strike action hit universities

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

UNIVERSITY lecturers who went on strike over planned changes to their pensions have agreed to take part in a second round of industrial action.

Scholars based at the University of Kent campuses in Canterbury, Medway and Tonbridge downed tools in March after failing to stop a reduction in benefits through the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS).

The proposals include an end to final-salary pensions for new members, the introduction of a pension age of 65, and the linking of pension increases to the lower Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate of inflation.

The lecturers who went on strike are all members of the University and College Union, and are threatening a prolonged course of action starting this month unless the body which oversees the pension scheme – the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA) – agrees to negotiate.

Otherwise a total of 52 universities will see disruption, including again the University of Kent.

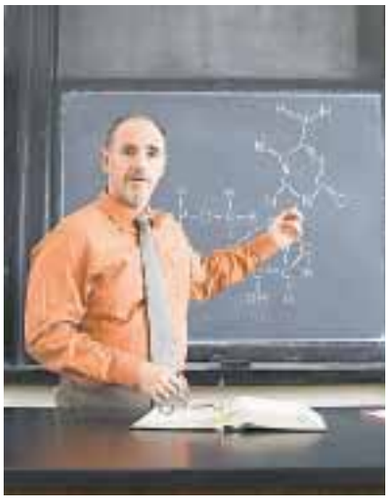
"The idea is for a gradual progression, from lesser forms of industrial action to more extensive ones," said UCU Kent secretary Steve Holland, head of special collections at the university library.

"For example, the idea is that from October 10 we will work to our contracts, which means sticking to our contracted hours and not doing anything outside of that.

"I think people are pretty fed up with the way public sector pensions are going, especially among USS members when the scheme is actually in pretty good nick. There's no sign it's in desperate straits, and we feel the broad measures introduced aren't necessarily needed."

The university employers say the controversial changes to the scheme – which has about 130,000 active members – are necessary to cut the long-term cost of funding it.

Students' union members said in March they had agreed to back the UCU campaign despite the damage it could potentially cause to their degrees, and Mr Holland said lecturers and other staff were grateful for their support.



TICKED OFF: Lecturers downed chalk in March

He added: "We will be talking to the students because we're obviously concerned about the impact these pension changes will have on the quality of education.

"You can offer lecturers less, but will you get the best people applying or will they go abroad? Students will demand a higher level of service now they're having to pay higher tuition fees.

"It's in the students' best interests to have happy academics. As long as we keep in good contact, we can usually come to some kind of arrangement with them."

A UCEA spokesman said the organisation was disappointed by UCU's announcement of action.

He added: "The changes to the scheme were approved by the USS trustee board, which includes UCU representation, on June 9. This followed exhaustive negotiations and consultation.

"They are moderate by any standards and include the retention of a final salary pension for all existing USS members."

■ **See Opinion on teachers' pensions concerns – page 26.**

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EXHIBITION

‘Obscene’ postcards banned by courts to go on display at university



By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A CHEEKY collection of saucy seaside postcards seized by police in the 1950s for being too vulgar are being displayed at the University of Kent.

The tongue-in-cheek cartoon pictures, held by the British Cartoon Archive at the university, are part of a collection of 1,300 cards confiscated by police under the obscenity laws between 1951 and 1961.

During that period a number of artists, including the master of the lewd postcard Donald McGill, who produced 12,000 designs during his career, were arrested and charged with publishing obscene images, with numerous postcards banned.

But 60 years later, the innuendo-laden cards are being displayed in the I Wish I Could See My Little Willy exhibition at the university’s Canterbury campus, following an inaugural display at the Pie Factory Gallery in Margate, which attracted more than 2,000 visitors. Events were also held at the town’s old magistrates court, where many of the cards – synonymous with British seaside tradition – were first banned.

Dr Nick Hiley, curator of the British Cartoon Archive, said he was pleased to be able to make the collection available to a wider audience.





“The seaside postcards in particular have already created a lot of interest,” he said. “Not only are many of the cards still amusing, but they represent a landmark in social and legal history.

“They are a vivid illustration of how our notion of obscenity has changed over time – these postcards were considered offensive 60 years ago, but far more risqué material is now widely available via the internet.”

The exhibited postcards are taken from 35,000 cartoons which have been digitised and made available online by the British Cartoon Archive, following a £150,000 grant by JISC, part of the Higher Education Funding Council.

The newly digitised cartoons include British political satirical images.

Dr Hiley said: “Among our online cartoons are 1,594 Margaret Thatchers which surprisingly, is more than our 1,225 Winston Churchills.”

The I Wish I Could See My Little Willy exhibition runs until November 13 on Level One of the Templeman Library at the Canterbury campus.

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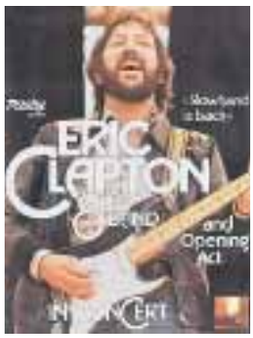


News

ENTERTAINMENT

History of rock legend Clapton the fruit of 47 years of work for writer

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk





MUSIC MAN: Chris Welch (right) first interviewed Clapton in 1964

HE HAD the dream job.

Interviewing rock stars and socialising in smoky nightclubs surrounded by talented and upcoming musicians.

But for music journalist and author Chris Welch there was one that stood out among the rest, prompting him years later to write Clapton: The Ultimate Illustrated History, detailing the guitar legend's music career and personal life up to the present day.

"I first met him for an interview in a coffee bar when he was with the Yardbirds in 1964, and I had started working for Melody Maker. He was very cool and smartly dressed – it was in the mod period," said Welch, who lives in West Wickham, Bromley.

"Most of the boys in the band were excitable but he was slightly detached. He gave me a quizzical look as if to say 'sorry about them'.

"He always came across detached, I think it's because he knew he was very good, but he was modest about it. Once he got talking though he was outgoing.

"Eric was one of my favourite of the musicians; charming and helpful – he's one of those people who takes his career seriously and is very aware of his position in music."

Welch, 69, who has interviewed countless stars – from Jimi Hendrix to Dusty Springfield – in his successful career, formed a friendship with Clapton, going on the road with him in the 1960s and watching many of his smaller and more intimate gigs.

Welch, who published Clapton: The Ultimate Illustrated History last month, said there was always one memory that would stay with him.

"I went to Clapton's house in Surrey to interview him when he was preparing Blind Faith with Ginger Baker. There was a big drum kit which belonged to Baker. Before we knew it we were playing Well... All Right by Buddy Holly. I was in heaven – playing with Eric Clapton while all these hippies sat on the floor looking up in awe."

Welch's new book is the first illustrated history of Clapton's entire career right up to the present day, with candid and performance photography and memorabilia.

It details all of the guitar legend's acts and collaborations with artists including John Lennon, BB King and Frank Zappa, as well as details of his personal life, from his romance with George Harrison's then-wife Pattie Boyd and his battles with drinking in the 1970s.

Asked whether he had spoken to Clapton about his controversial racist speech while on stage at a 1976 concert in Birmingham where the guitarist ranted "stop Britain from becoming a black colony", Welch said: "He tried to explain it me. He tried to justify what he said and apologise for it at the same time. He was a big blues fan you see."

Welch, who witnessed Clapton's band Cream's first rehearsal, said he had the privilege of watching Cream reunited at the Royal Albert Hall and Madison Square Garden in 2005.

"He was much the same as when we met for our first interview. Older, wiser, but that friendly knowing grin was just as disarming."

■ **Clapton: The Ultimate Illustrated History is available to order from Grantham Book Services on 01476 541080, priced £25.**

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HEALTH

Musician helping people to tune out of their addictions

RECOVERY: Former addict Jim Smith went to America to see how music is being used to help addicts through their problems, he is now using what he learnt to help people in this country

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

WHEN ageing musician Jim Smith saunters into addiction meetings wielding his trusty guitar, puzzled faces are an all-too-common reaction.

But after beating his own drink and drug problems more than three decades ago, the 62-year-old Beckenham resident is confident the music which saved his life can help other sufferers too.

Jim recently returned from a tour of America funded by the Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship, and hopes to use what he learned in New York and Nashville in his own rehab project.

"At first people look at you and think 'who's this old guy with his guitar?'," said Jim. "I'm sure many of them think I want them to sing Kumbayah, but I usually win them round.

"I was a confident guitarist when I was a teenager and had a promising music career ahead of me, but my addiction stopped all that. Since I've been sober I've picked up where I left off and have spent the last 10 years travelling around rehab groups and telling my story through music.

"Music touches us at a deeper level than a lot of other things, and it's something that's given my life purpose because I use it to help others."

Jim, who is also a qualified social worker, says his addiction problems started almost as soon as he first started drinking as a 15-year-old. The former Sevenoaks resident also suffered from anxiety as a youngster, which led to him becoming hooked on valium prescribed by his doctor.

"My life went downhill," he said. "My drinking got me into a lot of trouble and by 21 I'd already spent a week in prison and been on probation.

"I was unemployable and ended up in hospital many times. But on one of these occasions I woke up in bed after coming out of intensive care, and for the first time in my life I thought 'I don't want to do this any more'. It was a rare moment of clarity for me, and it was amazing."

Applicants who receive funding from the Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship must first prove that their reason for going abroad is to help people back in the UK.

While in America, Jim visited New York and discovered that professional musicians in recovery were also using music to help guide young people with their problems.

He also met a woman in Nashville who has collated a huge library of performers in recovery, and performed at the Betty Ford Center for drug and alcohol addiction in California.

"They are about 20 years ahead in America with this," said Jim. "I was inspired by how many places were using music in some way.

"It's given me more encouragement and determination to carry on with what I'm doing."

■ **See www.yoursevenoaks.co.uk for all the latest news and sport headlines.**



WILDLIFE

Sewage kills rare fish

ENDANGERED fish have been killed by a sewage leak into a brook.

Environment Agency officers have this week been investigating after dead fish were found in the Swalecliffe Brook, near Canterbury.

Around 300 sticklebacks and populations of eels, which are an endangered species, died.

Initial investigations have revealed the incident was caused by a sewage leak.

Contractors with specialist equipment were brought in to increase the levels of oxygen in the water so any further harm to wildlife and the environment was minimised.

The Environment Agency say it has traced the source, but would release no further details while the investigation was ongoing.



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Photo by Gary Lake

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POLICING

From Kent to Kabul – top officer training Afghan police recruits

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk



LEADING LIGHTS: Kent Police's Chief Insp Martin Cunningham (far right) with other officers from the UK involved in training the Afghan Police

ONE OF Kent Police's specialists in dealing with critical incidents is halfway through his year-long stint in one of the world's most challenging policing environments.

Chief Inspector Martin Cunningham flew to Afghanistan in March to train senior Afghan police and support staff in command, control and communication.

Based in the capital Kabul, Chief Insp Cunningham has already trained more than 1,000 students at the new Afghan National Police Staff College in managing major incidents, emergencies, and firearms operations. In addition, he is running investigation courses for up to 20,000 Afghan officers.

Chief Insp Cunningham said: "I have had the privilege of working with policing professionals from around the world and from many disciplines.

"It has been like attending a master class in police training. Also I have learnt so much about different cultures and the background behind religious beliefs.

"Restorative justice was one of the next big things in policing in the UK when I left.

"The Afghans have been engaged in community justice for centuries and whilst we may not always agree with their outcomes, one cannot help but be impressed by their engagement and tenacity when it comes to resolving disputes.

"There is challenge here on a daily basis. The other week I arrived back from a period of leave and that day was the day the Taliban chose to carry out complicated attacks on the city. I helped in the control of one of the bunkers, making critical decisions about people's safety while explosions and shots were happening close by.

"Some of the experiences of command, control and communication, and making critical decisions in challenging environments are things I will bring back to Kent with me. But the reality is that I will not understand the true value of what I have learnt until my return."

A police spokesman said: "This international mission is also set to benefit Kent Police, and therefore the people of Kent. For instance, stopping crime at source, particularly organised crime, is a tangible benefit of overseas missions."

MILITARY

Helmand return gives soldier chance to see country's change

A MAIDSTONE soldier has started a six-month deployment in Afghanistan where he will help provide logistical support to British Army personnel.

Sgt Sujan Limbu, 36, who is originally from Nepal, but is now based in Maidstone where his sister Chanda, 38 and brother Sachin, 31, live, serves with 1 Logistics Support Regiment (1LSR). He flew to Afghanistan last week.

During the six-month tour 420 personnel from 1LSR will be spread out across Helmand Province in support of the Germany-based 20th Armoured Brigade (the Iron Fist), providing transport and communications expertise and also working closely with the Afghan National Army to help prepare them to take over the security of their own country.



Picture: STAFF SERGEANT IAN HOULDING – RLC

Sujan, who joined the Army in 1994 and has previously served in both Afghanistan and Iraq, will primarily work with members of the Afghan Army as an observer, helping them with general admin and working practices.

He said: "On my first tour in Afghanistan in 2008, I was a team commander looking for any improvised explosive devices planted by the Taliban.

"This time I will be spending a lot of time helping to train and work with members of the Afghan National Army. I can speak Urdu which should stand me in good stead with speaking with them."

Sujan who is married to Babita, 38, and has two children Josam aged six and Jovan aged two, added: "I am looking forward to seeing how the country has changed and developed since I was last there. I hope to see more stability and the people really getting on. I am proud to be part of helping to get the country back on its feet.

"The most difficult part is leaving my family behind, but I hope I will be able to come back for Christmas to spend some time with them."

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OPINION

Hands off teachers' pensions

John Walder of the NUT explains why government pension proposals are so unfair

CHANGES to teachers' pensions have drawn much attention in recent days, but many may not know the full story.

The Kent division of the National Union of Teachers, at its September meeting, expressed the concern of its members at the Government's attitude to teachers' pensions.

This is an area of concern for all teachers, including those who have already retired and seen the beginning of the decline in their pensions with the undiscussed, unnegotiated switch in the index link from RPI to CPI made in April this year which brought about a 1.4 per cent decrease in pension values.

Our concern took the form of a motion, put forward by our colleagues from the Gravesham Association of the Kent division. I recount some of it here: "In the summer, increases of around 20 per cent in our [pension] contributions were announced. The Government also made it clear that this represents only 40 per cent of their intended increase. This, despite the Government's insistence that our protests are premature, because of ongoing negotiations.

"The issues involved in the Government's pension changes are well known and best summed up by our union's slogan: work longer – pay more – get less."

The motion explains the impact of these changes, with a career classroom teacher paying an extra £60,000-£70,000 in additional contributions, with the same amount again lost through the increase in pensionable age and the switch from RPI to CPI indexing.

The motion continues: "The Government argued changes to our pension were essential because of the financial crisis, that our pensions were simply unaffordable. But on the Today programme Evan Davies pointed out to Francis Maude that the Hutton Report, the Government's case for cutting our pensions, does not contain once, the word 'unaffordable'. Maude was reduced to silence.

"Hutton helpfully stepped in, but in doing so revealed the truth. He now accepts that his report concludes that public service pensions are sustainable, affordability is a separate issue: 'I was trying to talk about sustainability. That can be measured as total cost proportion of GDP. Affordability is a different judgement, a political judgement,' (from www.leftfootforward.org).

"There is the key. The Government's claim that our pensions are no longer affordable is based on a political judgement, not the objective truth to which they pretend. By any objective measure our pensions are sustainable, affordable and reasonable."

Instead the Government now argues that our pensions are unfair because they are better than the private sector.

"It is hard to take such a claim seriously when one realises this difference has arisen because it is the private sector that has walked away from reasonable pension provision... abandoning millions of workers to poverty in their old age."



The issues are best summed up by our union's slogan: work longer – pay more – get less

The motion continues: "Average teacher pensions pitch teachers just outside much of the assistance from benefits. But private sector workers will collect smaller employment pensions and go on to claim income support and benefits.

"No-one should retire on a pension that requires them to claim benefits after a lifetime of hard work. But the truth is that taxpayers are subsidising inadequate private sector pensions through the benefit system.

"Teacher pensions are sustainable, properly-funded, and reducing in cost over the next 20 years. Private sector employee pensions are inadequate and condemn millions to poverty in old age.

"The Government should address this, rather than pursue this unreasonable and unjust attack on our pensions".

■ **John Walder is secretary of the Kent division of the NUT.**

KOS COMMENT

Ministers must face up to gypsies issue

WHILE the illegal traveller camp at Dale Farm has been Essex's problem for the last 10 years, the people who live there may soon become Kent's responsibility instead.

But regardless of where this 400-strong community ends up, it should be the Government stepping forward with a long-term solution to the UK's gypsy camp woes.

While travellers are perfectly entitled to their way of life, they must not be allowed to flout long-held planning laws whenever they see fit. Those in power need to ensure it's not one rule for them and another for everyone else.

Oscar-winner keeps Margate dream alive

IF NOSTALGIA was enough to revive a town's fortunes, Margate would already be reliving its glory years.

Sadly it's not, but that won't stop people like Oscar-winner Arnold Schwartzman talking up the town's future prospects. And nor should it – Margate is still full of potential.

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Cricket on green at Little Chart Forstal
by Ted Prangnell, from Kennington

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Gurkhas more use in Nepal

LIKE, I suspect, many other readers I am appalled by the comments of MP Gerald Howarth on treating the Gurkhas like asylum seekers, as stated in the article by Marijke Cox (KoS, September 25).

However, I feel that giving the Gurkhas equal settlement rights might have been a mistake for many reasons.

Firstly, that despite getting more money, they could live in their native Nepal and have a better lifestyle for less than it costs to live in the UK.

Secondly, there is very little work for them here whereas, I suspect, there is plenty of work in Nepal, such as sherpas, farmers, medical staff or guides.

Thirdly, there are many villages in Nepal that have no real access except by foot; while this is fine for the fit, in the case of an emergency this can cause many problems, as even the excellent Nepalese Himalayan Rescue Service Helicopters find it almost impossible to land near these villages. Work needs to begin on constructing helipads near these villages.

The money saved by the UK government in not having to keep these excellent ex-soldiers on the dole, as I suspect some are, should be used to help the Nepalese Government in building these needed helipads and improving hospitals.

The Nepalese government could also increase the charges on the numerous visitors, especially climbers, to help fund improvements.

I feel this would be a far better way of thanking these brave soldiers than just keeping then in either low-paid jobs or on the dole.

I would like to be proved wrong, but I am not sure I will be.

Sheikh Mihand (aka Jackie Davidson), Sittingbourne Loonies

Christianity is not to blame

DAVID Burgess raises the old chestnut about religion causing all the troubles in the world (Letters, September 25).

This could be partly true about false religion, where religions are highjacked by extremists bent on pursuing their own agenda, but for religions per se this is patently untrue.

As far as Christianity is concerned, Christ told us to 'turn the other cheek', to 'love your enemy' and 'to love your neighbour'.

I don't remember Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot and the many others responsible for the mass slaughter of humanity being avid followers of any religion. In fact just the opposite.

The BBC are ditching BC and AD for the Common era (whatever that is); a doctor has been threatened with arrest and loss of livelihood for talking to a patient about Jesus; a café owner is going to be prosecuted for showing Bible DVDs in his café, and Mr Burgess wants Christianity eradicated from our lives.

The pseudo-Christian religions have sat on their hands as Christianity has gradually becoming marginalised, supposedly to stop offence to others.

Never mind the offence to Christians who have done nothing wrong.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Have faith in your own time

I QUITE agree with David Burgess – religion should be taught at home or at Sunday school or the equivalent, not at school.

Above all I believe faith schools are a mistake – they are divisive.

Schools should be inclusive and should reflect the diversity of the wider community.

Elizabeth Lonkhurst, Folkestone

The same old Ukip claptrap

UNSURPRISINGLY, Nigel Farage wants to blame immigrants for our housing problems (KoS, September 25).

There are two main reasons why we have a housing crisis.

Firstly, councils no longer build houses, largely because tenants then have the right to buy. This policy may have won votes for the Conservatives, but it has done nothing for the nation's housing stock.

Secondly, when agricultural or commercial land gets planning permission for housing its value magically soars, making housing unaffordable for the great majority of would-be new buyers. Builders won't build what they can't sell.

Over the last 30-plus years, with our support, politicians have protected landowners and have ignored the many.

The cause of the housing crisis lies with us.

Blaming immigrants is exactly the sort of foreigner-bashing claptrap to be expected from Ukip.

David Hopker, Broadstairs

Farage views wide of mark

NIGEL Farage is wrong, as usual (KoS, September 25). Neither the Green Party nor any of the other political parties he mentions have ever advocated uncontrolled immigration.

This is complete nonsense.

The Green Party supports a migration system that is legal, fair and safe for all. Neither the previous nor the current government have provided this. Funds for specialist units in the police service to tackle trafficking have never been adequate, and planned cuts will make this situation worse.

He is also wrong about the impact of inward migration on housing.

First, we have more than 700,000 empty homes in the country and 22,000 here in Kent and Medway.

With industrial derelict sites and long-term empty shop-fronts, we could be employing more people usefully in the construction sector country-wide and providing housing for the 1.8 million households on council waiting lists.

Apart from the failure of successive governments to emphasise refurbishment over new build in housing, our main population problem in Kent and Medway is the continuing movement of people out of London into Kent; internal migration not immigration is the issue.

As long as government chooses to undervalue and underinvest in our poorest UK regions the flow of people into Kent from London will tend to continue as the capital continues to be our major employment centre and housing in London is notoriously expensive to rent or buy.

Dr Hazel Dawe, campaigns officer, Kent Green Party

Open not shut case, owners

I'M sure Folkestone isn't the only town where one sees dogs muzzled outside supermarkets.

One Dalmatian pup I saw recently was so friendly and was trying to lick my hand, but it couldn't.

It makes me so mad to see animals treated like that.

There are so many docile breeds of dog with straps around their jaws.

The poor things can't even open their mouths.

When will the idiots (you know who you are) stop being so cruel to their so-called pet?

A dog that is known to be unfriendly to other animals and humans is usually made that way by its owner; no dog is born vicious.

So please, all you owners of docile pets treat them with a little more kindness.

Try putting a strap around yourself and see how you would like it if you couldn't open your mouth.

John R O'Neon, Folkestone

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Edited by **Adam Aiken**

Getting a mortgage with a small deposit



TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC

Q Do you know anything about the 100pc mortgages offered by Aldermore Bank, please? In particular, what are the drawbacks, if any? I ask because our son is finding it impossible to get a home loan, as he and his wife can only afford a deposit of about £20,000. Lenders will provide only about 75pc of the purchase price of a house or flat, which means all he can raise in total is roughly £80,000, which is not enough.

A The good news for homebuyers is that someone – anyone! – is actually offering 100pc mortgages. The bad news for homebuyers is that they come with more strings attached than a whole sorting office full of old-fashioned Christmas parcels. Let's start with the good bits. You may never have heard of Aldermore (www.aldermore-mortgages.co.uk), but it is a genuine bank, based in Peterborough, and fully licensed by the Financial Services Authority. This means that if you get into a dispute, you can go to the ombudsman. And if you are a saver, your money deposited with Aldermore is protected up to £85,000. The mortgage scheme launched by the bank recently charges interest at 6.48pc, fixed for the first three years, after which the rate is variable. And your son could borrow up to £250,000, repayable over 25 years, assuming he can afford the repayments. On the downside, getting a 100pc mortgage costs almost £1,300 in fees. And the scheme is aimed at over-25s, so younger house-hunters will have to look elsewhere or wait a while. But the biggest string attached to Aldermore's 100pc loans is the one that will bind you and your wife hand and foot for the next 10 years! For your son to get his 100pc loan, you must guarantee the repayments. If he defaults, you have to pay Aldermore. And if you default, then your own home is at risk as well as his. This guarantee would run for the first 10 years of your son's mortgage. After that, you can breathe easy and your son is on his own. In fact, the guarantee could end earlier if your son repays enough to bring the mortgage down to 75pc instead of 100pc. Aldermore is the first British bank to dip a toe in these waters all the way. Similar schemes have demanded a deposit. But unless property prices fall sharply, it could be the shape of home loans for the future, particularly for first-time buyers. It will be interesting to see if Aldermore succeeds and if other banks follow suit.

Q I inherited a significant sum in shares from an Irish relative. The dividends are paid and taxed in euros, and then taxed again in this country. I would like to put the shares into a British tax-free Isa. Can I arrange this myself, or do I have to use an existing firm that provides Isas?

A I am afraid you face a double difficulty. None of us is allowed to run our own tax-exempt Individual Savings Account. We all have to go to an Isa manager licensed by HM Revenue. Managers include banks, building societies, insurance companies, financial advisers, and even some supermarkets that offer savings schemes. They make sure investors do not try to sidestep tax by putting in more than the permitted annual amount. But even if you did go to a licensed manager, you would still not be able to transfer your shares into an Isa. The Isa can only hold shares that the manager has bought on your behalf, and not shares that you inherited or received in a windfall. The only exception to this rule is shares received under an employee share scheme. I am afraid you will have to choose an Isa manager, ask for your shares to be sold, and then – if you like those shares – ask the manager to buy them for you. But remember, you are only allowed to invest up to £10,680 this year.

Q I have a small annuity from an old pension policy. As my wife and I divorced last year, am I entitled to stop her inheriting the annuity on my death?

A Most couples deal with pension rights as part of their divorce settlement. If your agreement did not cover your annuity, then a lot depends on the small print. If the policy names your wife as a beneficiary, it is unlikely you can change this now. However, if it simply says that your annuity will pass to any wife who survives you, then you may not need to change anything, as you no longer have a wife. But play safe. Ask the pension company, or even your solicitor.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Heat is on to keep fuel bills down

SPIRALLING energy bills and a smattering of predictions of another harsh winter mean that keeping your energy spend down is more important than ever.

As the spectre of fuel poverty looms large for thousands of people, householders are working out how to reduce their bills where possible.

Beyond switching suppliers, there are some practical steps to take in the home.

Although it can produce quite a lot of noise while being installed, cavity-wall insulation harnesses the heat generated in the home meaning substantial savings on energy bills. The benefits can be felt instantly.

A specialist installer should always be sought for this type of job so ensure you choose a member who is Cavity Insulation Guarantee Agency (CIGA) qualified.

Draught stripping, where specialist strips of foam are installed around windows and doors, will significantly reduce draughts and air permeation in your home, helping to retain the heat and saving you money.

Costing around £50-£80 depending on whether you install it yourself or not, draught-stripping can save up to £20 per year for a gas-heated semi-detached house.

Consider replacing your boiler if it is old and inefficient.

This can be a big financial hit, but should pay off. A bit of simple homework will tell you how many years it will take before the investment starts to be worthwhile.



COSY AT A COST: With a cold winter forecast and the rising cost of energy the pressure is on for householders to keep bills down by taking practical steps.

Trade-in incentives are still available for this kind of purchase; check the funding database on the Energy Saving Trust website.

Loft insulation and pipe cladding should also be considered as energy saving measures.

Peter Bolton King, chief executive of the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA), said: "It is important that homeowners are aware of the options available to them when looking to make their homes warmer this winter.

"With bills on the rise, these measures can make a real difference, as well as having the welcome side-effect of increasing the carbon efficiency of their property.

"Many of these measures can be applied on different scales, and for this reason whilst doing DIY is very admirable, we urge any homeowner to seek the advice of professionals when looking to install energy and heat saving measures in the home."

Pay attention to your policy details

By Ed Foss
MyMoney 24 writer

PLANNING your car insurance around the dangers posed by uninsured drivers may be attractive to some drivers, but make sure you are aware of what you are buying.

Nearly one-fifth of motor insurance policies offer policyholders enhanced protection if hit by an uninsured driver.

In 17pc of cases, comprehensive car insurance policies will protect a policyholder's no claims discount and not apply an excess if they are involved in an accident caused by an uninsured driver.

This has increased from 13pc of policies in 2009.

Some 18pc of policies will not apply an excess in these circumstances, a figure which has grown from 10pc in the same period.

But the Defaqto analysis comes with an associated warning for motorists – to pay close attention to policy details to ensure it is clear what the policy covers and what are the exact conditions.

Drivers are now known to value protection against uninsured drivers more highly than ever before – presumably a reflection of the large numbers of uninsured drivers on our roads and the increased media attention focused on this danger.

What policyholders need to bear in mind is that the majority of motor insurance policies that provide this enhanced protection against uninsured drivers require certain details to be provided in the event of a claim, including vehicle details and the uninsured driver's name and address.

The very nature of uninsured driving may make these details difficult to come by.

Mike Powell, Defaqto's insight analyst for general insurance, said: "Our research has found that a growing number of motor insurance policies offer enhanced protection for accidents caused by uninsured drivers.

"However, it is also true to say that a relatively limited proportion of policies offer this feature, and most apply fairly stringent criteria when it comes to making a claim under this area of cover.

"As always, people should seek to match what they need from car insurance with the features that different policies provide when comparing what is available on the market – although important, price should never be the main reason for choosing a policy.

"As for many areas, when it comes to uninsured driver benefit, given the still limited and variable nature of cover available, taking time to understand the policy details could pay dividends in the long-run.

"In particular, motorists need to understand what protection a policy would provide in these circumstances and any restrictions they would face on making a claim."

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Optimism rising as companies are expecting an increase in turnover

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

BUSINESSES in the South East continue to feel affected by economic uncertainty and market volatility but are more confident about their own prospects than that of the wider economy over the next 12 months.

According to new research by Clydesdale Bank, more than half (58 per cent) of the businesses questioned in the South East expected to increase turnover by more than 5 per cent in the year ahead, despite less than a quarter (24 per cent) being confident the economy would return to healthy growth.

Despite their concerns about the economy, 46 per cent were planning to invest at least 5 per cent of their turnover back into their business in the next 12 months, with priorities being new staff, equipment, training existing employees and developing new products and services.

The most pressing concerns are support for research-and-development costs and fluctuating fuel prices, with 26.5 per cent and 25 per cent citing these issues as the key factors in their businesses' future growth.

Will Lindsay, regional director for Clydesdale Bank, said: "Businesses are clearly more confident and in control of their own destiny than they are for the wider economy, despite the impact of rising fuel and materials prices.



OPTIMISTIC: Clydesdale Bank's Will Lindsay

"Our research highlighted what businesses in the south feel will help them and the economy, with increased consumer spending and confidence (20.6 per cent) and low interest rates and the strength of the pound (both 20 per cent) coming out as the key drivers to economic growth.

"It is inevitable that there will continue to be bumps in the road to recovery, but businesses should continue to focus on their strengths."

Across the industries nationally, IT and telecoms businesses appear to be the most confident, with more than half (51 per cent) expecting increased turnover of at least 5 per cent in the next 12 months. Healthcare and education businesses are the least confident, with only 32 per cent and 23 per cent respectively expecting similar growth.

This is mirrored in their investment intentions, with 59 per cent of IT and telecoms businesses planning to invest at least 5 per cent of turnover back into the business compared with only 27 per cent of education-focused businesses.

Lindsay said: "Clydesdale Bank is working with hundreds of companies which have the confidence to invest. Our commitment to supporting trading businesses is stronger than ever and we continue to attract growing numbers of owner-managed small and medium-sized businesses plus mid-corporates. Good businesses with strong management and robust business plans will generally find support.

"This is evidenced by the fact we recently met our promise, three months ahead of schedule, to deliver our two-year pledge to advance £10 billion of new lending to customers."

PROMOTION

Small firms missing out on social media

THE county's businesses are missing out on the chance to generate income through social media, says a new study.

Despite having access to a wealth of social media channels, no small or medium enterprises in Kent which took part in a recent survey use the likes of LinkedIn or Twitter to generate new business prospects.

The study by TalkTalk Business was conducted to see how much SMEs in Kent embraced social media and gained from its business benefits.

A total of 38 per cent of SMEs in Kent are not confident using social media – with the North East (69 per cent) the most confident.

Paul Lawton, of TalkTalk Business, said: "Social media can prove invaluable as a new business tool and so it's worrying to see that so few SMEs in Kent are embracing it.

"Benefits range from being able to engage and understand the needs of customers and prospects through to gaining insights into target markets and perceptions of your organisation."

BAKERY

Sisters combine business and play with parties for children

TWO sisters are aiming to inject some creative fun into children's birthdays with the launch of their innovative cupcake-decorating party business.

Anna Hinde and Gemma Hawkins launched Eden Bakery in Sittingbourne at the end of June and since then the orders have been flying in for the sisters' handcrafted cupcakes, made fresh to order.

And now the pair have decided to turn their cupcake-baking and making skills into a party theme for children, encouraging them to be as colourful and creative as they like.

Anna said: "The idea for the children's cupcake-decorating parties came after a friend said she wanted to throw one for her daughter but didn't have the time to organise it. Gemma and I stepped in to help, and it's snowballed from there."

Gemma said: "Children love baking and getting messy and we can help the birthday girl or boy decorate their own cakes."

The parties are aimed at children aged five to 12. Each child has four ready-made cakes to decorate and take away (no baking required for busy mums) and Eden Bakery provides coloured-buttercream icing and decorations.

INHERITANCE

We're driven to leave something for the kids

BUSINESSES in the South East are focusing on the next generation, with almost a fifth (19 per cent) of owners planning to build their company as an inheritance for family members, according to research from Santander Corporate Banking.

The research underlines the importance of family-run firms to the economy – a recent study on behalf of the Unquoted Companies Group estimates some 21 per cent of all UK workers are employed by family-run firms.

Companies say being able to pass on a legacy is a strong motivating force in business.

Santander's nationwide study also revealed firms in the South East are highly committed to expanding their businesses in the long term – with about 80 per cent of owners citing their ultimate business aim as ensuring their business has a long-term future.

Carlos Portela, divisional managing director for the South East at Santander Corporate Banking, said: "Being able to pass on an inheritance to the next generation is powerful motivation."

RECYCLING



Sweet smell of success for new eco partnership

ECOSAN is the first Kent business to offer sanitary, nappy and incontinence recycling by working in partnership with Knowaste, the UK's first-ever facility for recycling nappies.

The Ashford company was founded by husband-and-wife team Carl and Sonja Wood in 2007 to offer green solutions for sanitary and nappy disposal and water supplies.

Sonja said: "We divert 98 per cent of all sanitary and nappy waste from landfill. Other suppliers choose to landfill nappies, which take 500 years to break down, or use incineration facilities. We're delighted to be first to offer this cost-effective, environmentally-safe, recycling solution.

"In the UK, more than one million tonnes of AHP waste is generated annually, much of which is landfilled, a significant amount of which is produced by the commercial sector.

"We're determined to reduce this figure while helping cut our customers' carbon output and saving them money."

Roy Brown, of Knowaste, said: "Through developing partnerships with green suppliers such as EcoSan to tackle recycling AHP waste, we are able to help both commercial operators and local authorities to cut carbon emissions, increase recycling and divert waste from landfill."

SUSTAINABILITY

Green projects come up trumps for 'golden' hotel

THE Ashford International Hotel has been awarded the prestigious Gold Accreditation by the Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS), the national sustainable tourism certification programme.

Projects undertaken by the hotel include the installation of an electric-car-charging station to enable owners of Tesla electric cars to charge their vehicles, use of a Sea-V water-infiltration system in association with charity Pump Aid Africa, recycling used coffee grounds as fertiliser for the newly-created kitchen garden and recycling of glass bottles, paper and cardboard from all bedrooms, conference suits and restaurants.

The hotel also helped support a family fun day for Friends of the William Harvey Hospital to help raise funds for a digital mammography machine, donated Easter eggs to Demelza House Children's Hospice and participated in the Can't See The Wood For The Trees project carried out by local artist Cathy Streeter as part of the Revealing Ashford arts festival.

Deirdre Billing, general manager at the hotel, said: "As well as our community initiatives, our conference carbon offsetting package gives delegates the chance to offset the carbon they use at the hotel to benefit carbon-reduction projects worldwide."

Online training scheme a Yummy idea for pubs



PULLING POWER: The team from Yummy Pub Co celebrate winning The Publicans Award for Best British Pub in 2010

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

AN INDEPENDENT local business has started a management-training academy for the next generation of publicans and landlords.

The Yummy Pub Co, which owns The Grove Ferry Inn, near Canterbury, and The Wiremill Inn, near East Grinstead, has developed a full training package for ambitious individuals looking to start a career in the British pub trade.

The company was set up in 2007 by four individuals who loved the pub trade and wanted to help rejuvenate struggling venues. The businesses slogan is 'More than just a pub' and the pubs they have taken on are definitely that.

The Wiremill has won three national awards in the last two years, including the Publicans Award for Britain's Best Pub, while The Grove Ferry, which was acquired in late 2009, won the regional award for best leased pub at The Morning Advertiser Awards.

Anthony Pender, founding partner of the business, said: "It was important to develop a top team at all of our sites to make sure both the service received by guests and the food offered was second to none and great value for money. Over time this has morphed into our very own Yummy Academy."

The business has already developed four members of staff through to pub managers and is now looking to recruit new ambitious team-members who want to make their way in the industry.

The training has been developed into seven stages using a groundbreaking online system, created in partnership with CPL Training.

The online facility allows each member of the team to log on and track their own progress while they complete a number of online courses. The training starts before team-members even start the job as they go for both health-and-safety and food-safety certificates.

This is followed by workshops and work-based training, including courses in customer service, leadership, basic accounting and food knowledge. By the end of the seven stages the individual will be able to run a busy successful pub and manage a strong team.

The Yummy Pub Co is open for applicants, with training positions available at both the Grove Ferry and Wiremill, with additional positions available at a new site in central London, which includes accommodation. Individuals have the opportunity to train in front of house or kitchen management.

Applicants should apply via the website www.yummypubco.wordpress.com.

Channel chamber gives its support to airports growth

AIRPORT development can help the economy of east Kent to grow, the Channel Chamber of Commerce is claiming.

Chief executive Peter Hobbs says he is behind plans to expand operations at both Manston and Lydd airports.

"This week saw the end of the public inquiry reviewing the multi-million investment plans for developing Lydd airport," he said.

"At the same time, only 40 miles away, Manston airport is anxiously awaiting permission for night-flights that will help transform it into a viable regional airport.

"Both of these commercial airports have clearly demonstrated the economic and job-creation benefits of their plans and Kent Channel Chamber and its members are solidly behind both developments.

"Anyone who has lived in east Kent for all or part of the past 50 years will know how valuable visitors are to our local economy – by land sea or air.

"Ironically, while the economic climate continues to struggle, there is very positive evidence that the east Kent coastal towns and villages are benefiting from many more visitors from both the UK and abroad.

"We should never forget just how attractive east Kent is as a key transport hub which includes two cross-Channel ferry ports, two international airports, Eurotunnel and, not least, the new high-speed rail link."

AWARDS

Environmental concerns shine through in review

THE new Best Western Dover Marina Hotel and Spa has achieved a Silver Grading at its first inspection by the Green Tourism Business Scheme.

Employees say the award reflects their concern in achieving environmentally-concerned targets and save on waste products.

To achieve a grading from the scheme, an organisation must have a strong environmental policy together with procedures and a plan in place to minimise energy consumption.

Part of this plan includes buying provisions and other necessary items locally wherever possible.

Positivity is driving up recruitment

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

DESPITE economists' growing fears that the world economy is heading on a downward spiral, local businesses remain optimistic about the year ahead, which is helping to drive recruitment activity across South East.

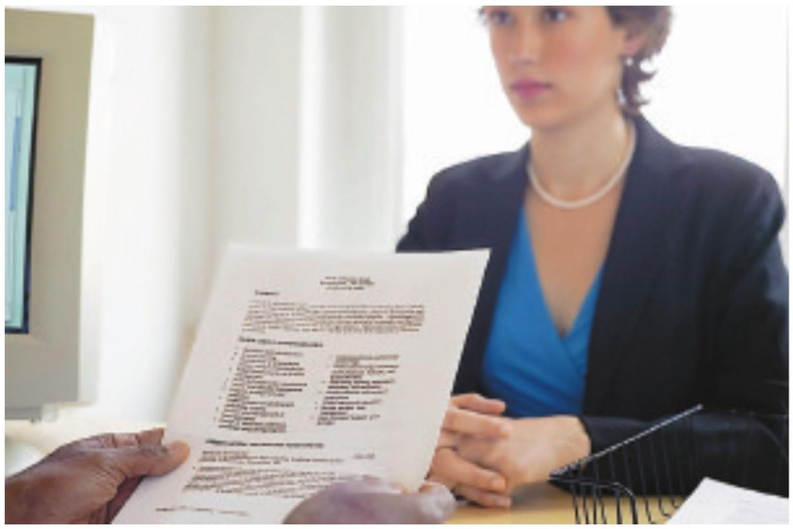
Figures show that two-thirds of companies – 66 per cent – are currently recruiting at similar levels to before the recession, compared with just 48 per cent in Q1 of 2011.

And, according to the fourth Tracking UK Recruitment quarterly report by professional staffing recruitment consultancy Barclay Meade, the number of companies in the South East operating under a recruitment freeze also fell for the fourth consecutive quarter, down from 17 per cent in Q4 2010 to 10 per cent in the first half of this year.

The report, which aims to provide insight into the effects of the current economic climate on the recruitment strategies of medium and large organisations in the UK, confirms a growing sense of buoyancy among businesses.

Despite the latest GDP figures revealing the UK economy grew by only 0.2 per cent in the three months to June, almost three-quarters of firms in the South East – 71 per cent – claim they are "optimistic" or "very optimistic" about business performance over the next 12 months.

Barclay Meade's report also reveals firms in the South East are looking to fill vacancies across all areas of their business. Almost a third, 31 per cent, are looking to fill administrative roles, with 29 per cent seeking middle managers and 24 per cent looking to recruit to senior managerial positions. However, according to the report by Barclay Meade – part of the AIM-listed recruitment business Matchtech Group PLC – candidates' skill shortages continues to be the biggest recruitment challenge for 29 per cent of firms in the South East, a concern for education providers given that four out of 10 firms are recruiting at graduate or entry level.



NEW STAFF WANTED: Two-thirds of companies say they are now recruiting at pre-recession levels

Employers in the South East also vented their frustration at how many potential employees look far better on paper than they do in practice, with almost half, 45 per cent, failing to live up to expectations when it comes to the interview stage. Firms in the South East identified rising fuel prices and the threat of a double-dip recession as the two factors most likely to have the biggest negative impact on recruitment strategies over the next 12 months, suggesting employers in the region fear circumstances beyond their control are likely to impact on the fragile recovery in the domestic economy.

Anton Roe, director at Barclay Meade, said: "Recruitment continues to be a contentious issue for many organisations across the UK, but our report clearly shows South East businesses continue to respond well to ongoing economic challenges as the number of firms operating under a recruitment freeze falls for the fourth consecutive quarter.

"It will be interesting to see in the next report if business-leaders maintain this level of hiring throughout the remainder of the year as financial markets in the US and eurozone come under increasing pressure and fears of a double-dip recession rise.

"For now, it is encouraging to see an increase in the demand for job candidates in the South East, with employers looking to fill vacancies across the business. This will provide hope to staff affected by the Government's austerity measures that are gradually entering the job market.

"Competition for roles among candidates is increasingly keen, but the upshot of this is that employers will be able to consider individuals who have precisely the level of experience required to fill vacancies."

New understanding set to show firms why they should Locate in Kent

THE county's many business strengths are set to reach a wider audience after investment promotion agency Locate in Kent signed a landmark agreement with UK Trade and Investment (UKTI).

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will see Locate in Kent become UKTI's sole point of contact in the county and is aimed at securing maximum levels of overseas investment for Kent.

The investment specialists signed the deal in order to further bolster its working relationship after Regional Development Agencies – previously used as an intermediary between the organisations – were abolished.

Paul Wookey, chief executive at Locate in Kent, said: "The MoU will be of benefit to us and UKTI and will lead to a much closer working relationship both in London and overseas than we already enjoy.

"The agreement gives us access to a pipeline of projects that may be suited to Kent and enable us to access UKTI expertise to hone our proposition to overseas companies.



BENEFIT: Paul Wookey says the agreement will boost the county's working relationship with London and overseas

"We can now also assist UKTI in providing more in-depth responses to leads they secure, presenting a more complete response to companies interested in relocating and expanding in Kent.

"The MoU is of particular relevance now as we continue to work closely with UKTI and other partner organisations to find buyers and occupiers for Discovery Park, the Pfizer site, which has recently gained Enterprise Zone status."

A UKTI spokesman said: "Through signing this MoU, Locate in Kent will gain access to the national pipeline of leads and a range of support from us for existing leads, including support for local proposition development and benchmarking, greater efficiency in targeting, and high-level support.

"This offers Kent the opportunity to achieve greater investment from overseas and improve the county's offer through more compelling local inputs and by better utilising existing knowledge of local assets and capabilities, which can be put forward to clients.

"It is also intended to ensure greater efficiency through optimising the use of collective resources such as sector intelligence and market understanding."



Keep Kent Working!
It's jobs for Kent

Master craftsmen reap fruits of labour

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

THE quality of Kent apprenticeships was clear for all to see when two dedicated tradesmen picked up awards at Britain's biggest skills competition.

Michael Chalmers, 21, who trains at K College and works for Folkestone-based JCL Decorating and Building Services, took home a gold medal in the painting and decorating category at the annual SkillBuild event, while 37-year-old Folkestone resident Rupert Davis won a silver in stonemasonry.

The competition saw both trainees battle it out with other competitors at an intense three-day final which took place at Leeds College of Building.

Scoring top marks in his category, Michael was also awarded the title of Apprentice Decorator of the Year and presented with a trophy and cheque for £1,000 as a result.

"I couldn't believe it, it was brilliant," he said. "I knew I'd done well but I thought some of the other competitors had done better than me so I was absolutely amazed to be called up to the stage to collect my prize.

"I'm really grateful to everyone who's supported me, especially my tutor Bruce Kerney at K College. I would never have entered this competition if it wasn't for him, so I hope he's really proud of what I've achieved.

"It's a great competition and I've really enjoyed it. I just want to keep learning more and developing new skills to be the best I can be, and hopefully go far in the industry."

SkillBuild – which is managed by the sector skills council and industry training board CITB-ConstructionSkills – saw more than 100 talented tradesmen and women compete for the top spot in their respective lines of work.

The competitors made it through to the UK final after achieving the highest scores at 15 regional heats held across the UK between March and May.

They were marked on the essential skills needed to work in the sector, including following detailed instructions, producing accurate work outputs, being economical with materials, and working to strict timescales.

Both Michael and Rupert now stand a chance of representing the UK at the next WorldSkills competition due to take place in Leipzig, Germany, in 2013. A number of winners from previous SkillBuild competitions will be taking part in the WorldSkills event due to be held this week in London.

CITB deputy chair Judy Lowe said: "We are extremely proud of all the trainees who competed at the UK final. The high level of talent and skill we have seen is testament to the solid foundations laid by organisations such as ourselves, industry employers and training providers, and we are grateful for the continued support of the competition.

"SkillBuild demonstrates the huge talent and ability of those young people working within the industry, showcasing the professionalism of the sector as a whole and helping to encourage new blood into the industry."

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email steve.knight@archant.co.uk or give him a call on 01303 817136.



TALENTED: Rupert Davis, 37, won a silver award in stonemasonry at the contest

Skills course for underprivileged

A COURSE aimed at helping disadvantaged teenagers achieve future business success is being held this week.

The five-day Youth Leadership Summit starts on Monday, October 3, at Grosvenor Hall in Ashford, and is run by the Knowledge to Action Foundation.

Throughout the week the teenagers will be mentored by various industry experts focusing on a range of personal development techniques across the areas of health, relationships, wealth, leadership and learning.

A number of team-building exercises will also be utilised, such as climbing and zip-lining.

"The Knowledge to Action Foundation has raised significant sums of money for charities such as Barnardo's and the Ubuntu Education Fund but we want to be a hands-on initiative as well," said founder Greg Secker

"We are in the fantastic position of being able to enhance the lives of children, giving them opportunities and learning tools they wouldn't otherwise have access to until later in life."

Career boost for AXA apprentices

TUNBRIDGE Wells-based health insurance company AXA PPP Healthcare has recruited nine apprentices as part of a programme developed with K College.

The new recruits were chosen from 166 applicants and will be employed within the firm's customer service team for 11 months while also working towards several relevant qualifications including Key Skills and City & Guilds certificates.

They will then be able to consider moving onto other roles in the company, such as in marketing, IT, finance, sales, and HR.

Membership and people director Sonia Wolsey Cooper said: "At AXA PPP Healthcare, providing the best support to our members through excellent customer service is at the heart of our business.

"Our customer service apprenticeship programme provides a fantastic chance for talented individuals who have an appetite for success to acquire the experience that can ultimately open doors to a world of opportunity."

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Criminal behaviour at university's new centre of forensic psychology

THE University of Kent has opened a new Centre of Research and Education in Forensic Psychology.

Police, MPs, criminologists, psychologists and members of the probation and prison services were among the 200 guests invited to the day-long launch event.

It involved a programme of presentations, talks and symposiums on topics ranging from street gangs, corporate crime and sexual harassment, to stalking, arson and forensic uses of face perception.

Centre director Dr Theresa Gannon described the subject as a "modern branch of psychology that seeks to understand the psychological processes underlying offending behaviour, victim responses to offending, the mechanisms underlying the criminal justice system more generally, and attitudes to offenders and offender re-integration in society".

She added: "The main aim of the centre is to conduct high-impact psychological research to further understand key forensic issues of social significance and lead to cutting-edge teaching and research opportunities for post-graduate students."

Subjects currently being researched by forensic psychologists at the university include bullying in prisons, jury decision-making, female sex offending, aggression and alcohol, and rape.

Kitchen battle for ambitious young chefs

SECONDARY school children are being urged to cook up a storm by competing for the third annual Kent Young Chef Award.

The competition challenges youngsters in years seven to 11 to devise and write an original main course recipe using autumnal and Kentish ingredients.

Celebrity chef Richard Phillips and a panel of judges will be at the live cook-off final on Friday, November 25, which will be held at the View Restaurant at K College's Tonbridge campus.

The Kent Young Chef Award is the brainchild of local food and drink champion Produced in Kent and is aimed at encouraging secondary school children back into the kitchen.

Produced in Kent manager Julie Monkman said: "With Kent Young Chef Award entering its third year we have a huge groundswell of support from our sponsoring companies and secondary school food technology departments, who have applauded what Produced in Kent is doing.

"Kent Young Chef Award has not only raised young people's awareness of the fantastic array of produce grown here in the Garden of England, it has also seen hundreds of children creating original recipes and creatively cooking again.

"For those who have made it to the live final it has proved a life-changing experience, with several of our finalists now pursuing a career as a chef."

The authors of the eight best recipes will travel to K College for the live cook-off, with all receiving a host of prizes including a mini-chef experience and lunch at one of Richard Phillips' restaurants, a Kent Young Chef Award apron, and a framed certificate.



JUDGE: Richard Phillips will be at the cook-off

Their recipes will also all be published on the Produced in Kent website.

The two winners of the junior and senior titles will be presented with a trophy each and a hamper packed with local Kentish produce. They will also have the chance to design a three-course menu and be treated as guests of honour at Woods in Tunbridge Wells.

Email your entry to youngchef@wacpr.com before Friday, October 28.

University given a Baseline as magazine celebrates student links

THE close working relationship between Baseline magazine and the University for the Creative Arts is the subject of a new exhibition.

Over the last 17 years, Baseline – the international typography publication – has employed 20 students and graduates from UCA Maidstone's visual communication and illustration courses.

The new exhibition, which will be held at the campus' George Rodger Gallery from October 10 to November 4, will be free of charge and open to the public.

Baseline magazine's editor Hans Reichert said: "The relationship with UCA Maidstone has been hugely beneficial.

"We have worked with some incredibly talented and skilled people over the years, and their contribution to the editorial design and layout of the magazine has been invaluable.

"During their stay at Baseline, the students experienced first-hand contact with our high-profile contributors such as Arnold Schwartzman, Alan Fletcher, Adrian Frutiger, Ken Garland, David Gentleman, Ivan Chermayeff, David Carson, Neville Brody, Sir Terence Conran and best-selling author Steven Heller.

"We wanted to celebrate this collaboration by putting on an exhibition of work created over the years. There will be a diverse range of work on display, including covers and posters."

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You must be aged 18 or over by 19 November 2011 to apply.

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Please apply via the website asap:
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The closing date is 12 October.

Once applications have been reviewed interviews will be held in various locations in Lamberhurst October for acting and non-acting roles.

Kent Showground

Kent County Agricultural Society

Trade & Sponsorship Sales Specialist - Kent County Show

KCAS plays a leading role in Kent to promote agriculture and horticulture in the County and has organised the Kent County Show for 82 years.

The role
Working with the Events and Trade Co-ordinator, the successful candidate will be responsible for the development and growth of trade stands and sponsorship for the Kent County Show.

The candidate
The candidate will be enthusiastic, self motivated, capable of working under pressure and have a good grasp of the commercial sales process. Knowledge of Kent agriculture and local businesses would be an advantage. Excellent organisational and administrative skills are required and the ability to develop and maintain client relationships is essential. As part of a small team, duties will include assisting with other departments as required and general office work. An understanding of basic CAD drawing would be helpful.

Please apply by letter or email with your CV to: **The Executive Manager. Kent Showground, Detling, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3JF.**
Email: **info@kentshowground.co.uk**

Closing Date: **7th October 2011**

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The successful applicants will be responsible for assisting teachers and childcare team leaders in the school

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***For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.**

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E-mail: john.allen@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk

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We are seeking to appoint an ICT Technician. This post will be 37 hours per week, term time only, 39 weeks a year, to work in the ICT Department. Candidates should be proficient with Windows XP/7 and Microsoft Office applications and have good interpersonal and troubleshooting skills and a desire to learn. Knowledge of SIMS.net, networking, customer service skills and interactive whiteboards would be an advantage, but training will be given.

For further details and an application form telephone 01622 726683 or email office@opgs.org. Please return application forms with a covering letter, to the Headteacher, by the closing date of 5th October 2011. Details and application form can also be found on the school website www.opgs.org. Agencies need not apply.

Oakwood Park Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with former employers and Enhanced CRB check.

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MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Preston Court, Preston, Canterbury**
Applicant: **Michael List-Brain**
Name of Premises: **Tor Spa Retreat, Wickham Lane, Ickham, Canterbury**
Applicant: **Ky Wilkinson**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Hever Hotel and Country Club, Hever Road, Hever**

Applicant: **Paul Gould**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Smugglers Restaurant, 212 Birchington Road, Birchington**
Applicant: **Lisa Knox**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, ME14 1XX

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

2010-2011

NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT

AND DEPOSIT OF ACCOUNTS

The Audit of the Accounts of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2011 has been concluded and the Statement of Accounts are available for inspection at the Gateway, Royal Tunbridge Wells, weekdays (excluding public holidays) between 9am and 4pm or on the Council's website at:

http://www2.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=1381

As required by Section 14 of the Audit Commission Act 1988 the Statement of Accounts will be open to the inspection of any local government elector of the Borough who may make a copy of it or of an extract from it.

22 September 2011

Lee M. Colyer CPFA
Head of Finance & Governance (s151 Officer)
Town Hall
Royal Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN1 1RS

I **Krzysztof Kapron** are applying for a new Premises Licence at the TWIST Bistro, 6 Railway Street, Chatham, ME4 4JL

My application is made to Medway Council Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, ME4 4TR

I am applying for the following licensable activities: **Sale of Alcohol (10am-10pm)**

Should you wish to make representations to the Council it must be in writing and/or you can view my application by contacting the Council on **01634 337 107** or **337 108** by 22.10.2011

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

VILLAGE GREENS - IN THE DISTRICT OF CANTERBURY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY
COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)
APPLICATION TO REGISTER LAND KNOWN AS GRASMERE PASTURES AT WHITSTABLE AS A TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN

Notice is hereby given that the Public Inquiry into the above matter, which commenced on Monday 5th September 2011, has been adjourned and will resume on:

Monday 31st October 2011 at 10.00am

at Whitstable Castle, Tower Hill, Whitstable, Kent CT5 2BW

A copy of the Inspector's Directions (dated 24th May 2011), as well as the further Directions of the Inspector (dated 5th September 2011), setting out the procedure to be followed for the submission of evidence and the format that the Public Inquiry will take is available on the County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/villagegreens.

For further enquiries, please contact Miss Melanie McNeir on 01622 221628.

PROW - Borough of Gravesham

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH NG1
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH NG1)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath NG1 (south of Denton Wharf) between NGR TQ 664 742 and NGR TQ 665 743 from the 22nd September 2011

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 1st December 2011

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Mark Lane and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact:
Alison Andreassen

PROW - Borough of Swale

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS ZS13 (PART), ZS20 AND ZS46 (PART), IN THE PARISH OF MINSTER ON SEA
PUBLIC FOOTPATHS ZS13 (PART), ZS20 AND ZS46 (PART), MINSTER ON SEA
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 sections 16A - 16C as inserted by the Road Traffic Regulation (Special Events) Act 1994 and amended by The Kent County Council (Filming On Highways) Act 2010

Kent County Council has temporarily closed:

Public Footpath ZS13 (Part) between NGR TQ 938 678, 120 metres south of Kings Hill Farm, and NGR TQ 935 669, junction with Public Footpath ZS20,

Public Footpath ZS20, between NGR TQ 928 677, junction with Public Bridleway ZS21 and NGR TQ 935 669, junction with Public Footpath ZS13 at the access to the former Elmley Ferry crossing, and

Public Footpath ZS46 (part), between NGR TQ 940 675, junction with private track, and NGR TQ 936 672, junction with Public Footpath ZS13 from the 20 September 2011.

The paths will be closed for a maximum of ten days. The Secretary of State for Transport has consented to this extended closure period. It is expected that they will reopen on 29 September 2011.

The paths are to be closed to enable the making of a film.

The alternative route is via Public Bridleway ZS21, part of Public Footpath ZS13 and private track to join Public Footpath ZS46 and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

PROW - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH WT254 IN THE PARISH OF PADDOCK WOOD
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH WT254)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath WT254, between the junction with Public Footpath WT253 (NGR TQ 676 452) and the junction with Church Road / The Cedars from the 23rd September 2011.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 25th September 2011.

The path is to be closed because works to lay electrical services are planned on or near it.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Jonathan Bibby

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 2nd October 2011

The above notice(s) may be provided in other formats

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13

KCC/DO/0402/2011 - Proposed development at Whitfield Household Waste Recycling Centre and Transfer Station, Honeywood Road, Whitfield, Dover, Kent, CT16 3EH.

Kent County Council Waste Management are applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for improvements to layout of the Whitfield Household Waste Recycling Centre incorporating a small modular welfare office and an extension of hard-standing.

You may view this application at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PJ.

KCC/TM/0371/2011 - Proposed development at Hermitage Quarry, Hermitage Lane, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7PX.

Gallagher Aggregates Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the variation of conditions 1 and 3 of planning permission reference TM/08/2706 to allow retention of the former concrete batching plant for use as a secondary or back up plant in the location identified in the application until completion of quarrying at the site.

KCC/TM/0403/2011 - Proposed development at New Hythe Lane, Aylesford, Kent (Former SCA Packaging Ltd Site).

Aylesford Metals Company is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for development of a metals recycling facility.

You may view both these applications at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/planning or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons.

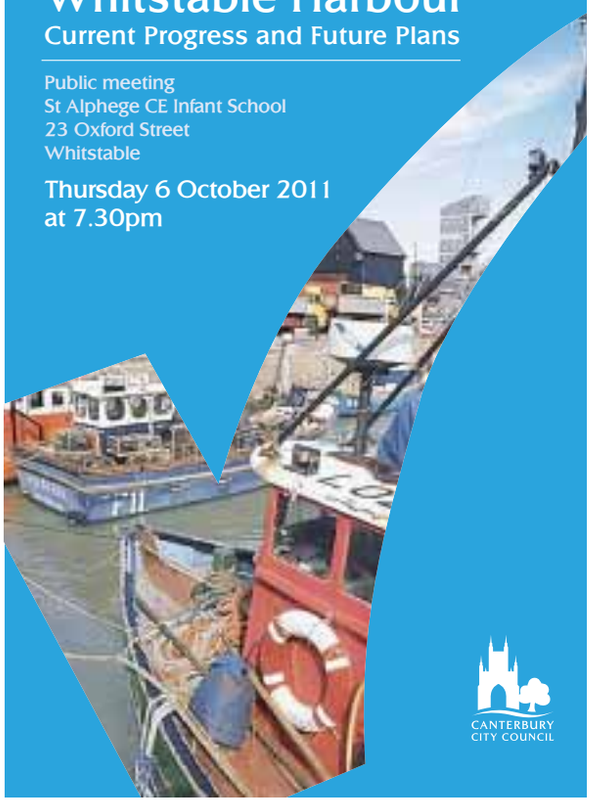
Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 2 October 2011

Whitstable Harbour

Current Progress and Future Plans

Public meeting
St Alphege CE Infant School
23 Oxford Street
Whitstable

Thursday 6 October 2011
at 7.30pm



CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

11/02678/FUL **Hopbine Inn Petteridge Lane, Brenchley**
- Retrospective - 2m x 2.5m umbrella on front patio (LB)

11/02744/HOUSE **Winchmore Brenchley Road, Brenchley**
- Removal of half built double garage and replacement with timber framed 3 bay garage and log store (LB)

11/02777/FULMJ **Stables Bank Farm, Capel**
- Erection of a covered sand school, formation of outdoor sand school, manure barn and new stables within existing barn (LB) (MAJOR) (PROW)

11/02640/FUL **Three Chimneys Hareplain Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Guest and staff facilities in purpose built accommodation with reception office (LB)

11/02702/LBC **Ashleigh The Hill, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Installation of colour-coded aluminum secondary glazing to front 4 windows (LB)

11/02794/FUL **Turnden Hartley Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Demolition of existing former chicken building and construction of an additional warehouse for wine storage (LB)

11/02757/HOUSE **65 London Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Removal of existing extension with roof terrace, erection of spiral stair to access first floor, minor internal alterations and construction of garden wall with associated landscaping. Re-roofing of property (LB) (CA)

11/02758/LBC **65 London Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Listed Building Consent: Removal of existing extension with roof terrace, erection of spiral stair to access first floor, minor internal alterations and construction of garden wall with associated landscaping. Re-roofing of property (LB)

11/02840/FUL **Former Supermarket Site Vale Road, Culverden**
- Removal/demolition of part of the existing canopy, tree planters and surface material and construction of an entrance vestibule and public realm works (CA) (LB)

11/02843/CAC **Former Supermarket Site Vale Road, Culverden**
- Conservation Area Consent: Removal/demolition of part of the existing canopy, tree planters and surface material (CA)

11/02727/FUL **Woodgate Mews The Heath, Horsmonden**
- Change of layout of footpath to plots 1 and 2. Change of fence layout to plot 2 (adjacent to drive). New fence where office demolished. All pursuant with previously approved application TW/07/03129 (CA) (LB)

11/02790/CAC **Garden Cottage 16 Calverley Park Gardens, Park**
- Conservation Area Consent - Removal of existing fence fronting Pembury Road (CA)

11/02712/FUL **The Granary Heronden Barn, Sandhurst**
- Change of use of The Granary from annex to dwelling with parking (LB)

11/02743/LBC **Burrswood Groombridge, Speldhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Remedial work to unstable wall (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 01 October 2011



ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//11/01394/FUL: Whitecroft, Covet Lane, Kingston, CT4 6HU Erection of conservatory to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Anthony Cadby** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01444/FUL: 1 Marlowe Court, King Street, Canterbury, CT1 2AL Replacement windows. **Applicant: Miss Kitt** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01458/LB: 6 Summer Hill, Harbledown, CT2 8NH Installation of solar panels to rear (southern) roof slopes. **Applicant: Mrs A Rootes** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//11/01511/FUL: Littlebourne House, 2 High Street, Littlebourne, CT3 1UN Extension to residential nursing home. **Applicant: Mr M Moreland** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01518/FUL: Herne House, Canterbury Road, Herne, CT6 7JX Change of use of outbuilding to cattery. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs White** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01520/ADV: 20 Castle Street, Canterbury, CT1 2QJ Non-illuminated external sign with hanging bracket. **Applicant: Mr Timothy Dudgeon** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01525/FUL: 24 Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3QZ Internal and external alterations. **Applicant: Mr Robin Atherden** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01526/LB: 24 Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3QZ Internal and external alterations. **Applicant: Mr Atherden** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//11/01529/FUL: 64 Harbour Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AG Single-storey extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Cooper** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01542/FUL: Poplar Farm, Stodmarsh Road, Wickhambreaux, CT3 4BA Single-storey extension to side of dwelling and erection of garage with office room over. **Applicant: Mrs Brenda Holdstock** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01548/FUL: 33-33A Ethelbert Road, Canterbury, CT1 3NF Internal and external alterations to dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Yurov** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01553/FUL: Glendale, Underdown Lane, Herne Bay, CT6 5UD Loft conversion incorporating dormer window to rear roof slope. (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Mr Chris Snell** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01563/FUL: 18 Douglas Road, Herne Bay, CT6 6AE Replacement front door. **Applicant: Mr T Fentiman** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01573/FUL: 9 Rose Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2JP Installation of additional roof plant. **Applicant: HSBC Bank PLC** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01575/LB: Poplar Farm, Stodmarsh Road, Wickhambreaux, CT3 4BA Single-storey extension to side of dwelling and erection of garage with office room over. **Applicant: Mrs Brenda Holdstock** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//11/01576/LB: 7 Best Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2JB Alterations to include the removal of masonry brickwork, insertion of a steel lintel, new blockwork, proposed brickwork to conservation standards and moving of a window (Retrospective application). **Applicant: Ms Hartley-English** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//11/01577/ELE: Walnut Tree Cottage, Woolage Green Road, Woolage Green, Womenswold, CT4 6SF Erection of telegraph pole. **Applicant: UK Power Networks** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01579/FUL: Friends Cottage, The Causeway, Barham, CT4 6PT First-floor extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mrs J Frier** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01580/LB: Friends Cottage, The Causeway, Barham, CT4 6PT First-floor extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mrs J Frier** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//11/01581/LB: Littlebourne House, 2 High Street, Littlebourne, CT3 1UN Extension to residential nursing home. **Applicant: Mr M Moreland** Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.control@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 24 October 2011**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 30 September 2011

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THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/11/1152/S - OAST AT GREAT TONG FARM, GREAT TONG, HEADCORN, KENT, TN27 9PP - Change of use of building from agriculture to light industrial. **Reason: 7**

MA/11/1260/S - 3-4, BOWER TERRACE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8RY - An application for listed building consent for the installation of replacement signage 'Dendy Neville' and 'Chartered Accountants' and installation of spot lights. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1339/N - LAND ADJ ULCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL, THE STREET, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1DU - An outline application with all matters reserved for future consideration for a residential development of two semi-detached houses and one detached house with access road to associated parking and landscaping. **Reason: 7**

MA/11/1341/S - MOUNTAIN FARMHOUSE, MARDEN ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9PZ - An application for listed building consent for alterations to the fenestration to the west elevation; removal of soil pipe and alterations to rainwater goods to west elevation and replacement of rainwater goods to all other elevations; replacement of window and introduction of new openings to north elevation; and erection of porch to north elevation. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1468/N - 2, CROSS KEYS, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4HR - Retrospective application for the erection of a 1.8m boundary fence. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1471/S - CHARLTON FARM, LOWER FARM ROAD, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4DB - An application for listed building consent for alterations and repairs to fire place and beam. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1588/N - 72, BANK STREET, MAIDSTONE, ME14 1SN - Extension and alterations to create three apartments. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/1589/N - 72, BANK STREET, MAIDSTONE, ME14 1SN - Extension and alterations to create three apartments. **Reason: 1, 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **16th October 2011**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 2nd October 2011

HIGHWAYS - Ashford Borough Council

HINXHILL ROAD, HINXHILL, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hinxhill Road, Hinxhill, on or after 22 October 2011 for up to 15 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Goodcheap Lane and Plumpton.

The alternative route is via Hinxhill Road, The Street, A2070 Kennington Road, Willesborough Interchange, A20 Hythe Road, Bockham Lane and Plumpton.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

ALBANY DRIVE, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable sewer connections to be made for a new development, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Albany Drive, Herne Bay, between 22 October 2011 and 30 October 2011 inclusive, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Sea Street (on the station side).

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Sea Street and Minster Drive.

The alternative route is via Sea Street, Western Avenue and Minster Drive.

HIGH STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the use of a mobile crane to lift equipment onto the roof of Lloyds TSB, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, Canterbury, on or after Sunday 23 October 2011 between the hours of 6.00 pm and 10.00 pm.

If adverse weather prevents these works going ahead on 23 October, the works will be deferred until one of the following 2 Sundays, as advised on site.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with St Margaret's Street.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with St Margaret's Street and Guildhall Street

The alternative route is via Rose Lane, Watling Street, Upper Bridge Street, Broad Street, Military Road, Tourtel Road, Northgate, New Ruttington Lane, Union Place, Union Street The Borough, Palace Street, Orange Street and The Friars.

TELFORD STREET, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of construction works in connection with a new development, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Telford Street, Herne Bay, on or after 18 October 2011 for up to 1 day.

A futher 1-day closure is planned for 8 November 2011.

The road will be closed between the junction with Richmond Street and the vicinity of Saxby Lodge.

The alternative route is via Richmond Street, Central Parade, Dolphin Street and Telford Street.

This Order remains in force for up to 18 months and can be re-implemented if required, for works of a similar nature.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

EAST CLIFF, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on East Cliff, Dover, on or after 17 October 2011 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases from the junction with Townwall Street to the vicinity of number 58.

There is no alternative route.

There will be a suspension of the One-way Traffic Order in respect of East Cliff to allow access up to the point of closure.

HIGHWAYS - District of Gravesham

OAKENDEN LANE, MEOPHAM - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Oakenden Lane, Meopham between Brimstone Hill and Dean Street.

The Order will become effective on 17th October 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 21 October 2011 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via Dean Road, Harvel Street, David Street, Whitehill Road and Brimstone Hill.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT works to allow safe access for poling works.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOWER LANE & BOWER PLACE, MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (SUSPEND & INTRODUCE ONE WAY ORDERS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the routes described in the Schedule.

The alternative routes as described will be noted in the schedule. Access will be maintained up to the points of closure. The Order will become effective on Monday 3rd October 2011 when required for a period of up to 13 weeks or until such works are completed and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

Schedule

Road Name:	Bower Lane, Maidstone
Extent:	A26 Tonbridge Road to Upper Fant Road, in sections: 1.1 Tonbridge Road to Evelyn Road, 1.2 Evelyn Road to Newton Close, 1.3 Newton Close to Upper Fant Road
Diversion:	A26 Tonbridge Road, St Michaels Road, Upper Fant Road
Road Name:	Bower Lane, Maidstone
Extent:	Suspend one way order between A26 Tonbridge Road and Upper Fant Road in the above stages - 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 to allow for access
Road Name:	Bower Lane, Maidstone
Extent:	Introduce one way order northbound between Upper Fant Road and Newton Close
Road Name:	Bower Place, Maidstone - Contingency only
Extent:	A26 Tonbridge Road to Bower Lane
Diversion:	A26 Tonbridge Road, St Michaels Road, Upper Fant Road
Road Name:	Bower Place, Maidstone
Extent:	Suspend one way order between A26 Tonbridge Road and Bower Lane
Road Name:	Upper Fant Road, Maidstone
Extent:	Closure of access from Bower Lane and Bower Place into Upper Fant Road
Diversion:	Bower Lane, A26 Tonbridge Road, St Michaels Road

The purpose of the Order is for gas mains replacement to be undertaken by Southern Gas Networks.

For further information or comment please call John Adsley of Southern Gas Networks on 07774 983419.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, BOXLEY) (50MPH AND 40MPH SPEED LIMITS AND RESTRICTED ROADS) (AMENDMENT NO.1) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce a 50 mph speed limit on the A229 Chatham Road, Boxley (northbound lane only) on the following length of road:

A229 Chatham Road (northbound lane only)	From a point 80m north of Springfield Roundabout to a point 127m north of the centre line of the splitter island at the access to Cobtree Golf Course

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation on 3rd October 2011, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours Monday to Friday at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

ST JULIANS ROAD, SEAL - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on St Julians Road, Seal from Park Lane for approx 55metres West.

The Order will become effective on 16th October 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 17th October and last 4 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via Fawke Wood Road, Carters Hill.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of a new water pipe.

HIGHWAYS - In the District of Sevenoaks and Boroughs of Dartford, Gravesham, Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone and Tonbridge and Malling

VARIOUS ROADS, SEVENOAKS/DARTFORD/GRAVESHAM/TUNBRIDGE WELLS/MAIDSTONE & TONBRIGE & MALLING - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are being carried out on or near the road Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on the routes described in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 3rd October and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The dates shown in the schedules are anticipated dates however actual work dates will be displayed by signage on site in advance. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the restrictions are also stated in the attached schedules.

Schedule 1

Sevenoaks

Road Name:	Ash Road, Hartley
Extent:	Between The Warrens and Tates Orchard
Date:	6th October 2011 for 2 nights between 20.00 - 00.00
Diversion:	Ash Road, Hartley Road, B260 Main Road, Fawkham Road, Valley Road, Brands Hatch Road, Fawkham Road, A20 London Road, Ash Lane, South Ash Road, The Street, Ash Road, Chapel Wood Road and Ash Road.
Road Name:	A25 Westerham Road, Chevening
Extent:	Between Westerham Road (minor) and Springshaw Close
Date:	17th October 2011 for 7 nights between 20.00 - 00.00
Diversion:	A25 Worships Hill, A224 Amherst Hill, London Road, Tubbs Hill, London Road, A225 Tonbridge Road, Riverhill, A21 Sevenoaks By-Pass (via Morley's roundabout) and A25 Westerham Road.

Dartford

Road Name:	Princes Road, Dartford
Extent:	The roundabout junction with Green Street Green Road and Park Road
Date:	3rd October 2011 for 3 nights between 19.00 - 00.00

Diversion:
For Princes Road into Dartford from Watling Street - Watling Street, East Hill, Overy Liberty, Market Street and Lowfield Street.
For Princes Road into Dartford from Lowfield Street - Lowfield Street, Instone Road, Highfield Road, Westgate, Home Gardens, East Hill and Watling Street.
For Green Street Green Road - Green Street Green Road, Darenth Hill, Parsonage Lane, Hawley Road and Lowfield Street.
For Park Road - East Hill, Overy Liberty, Market Street and Lowfield Street

Road Name:	Dartford Heath Roundabout (Old Bexley Lane), Dartford
Extent:	The roundabout, junction with the A2
Date:	10th October 2011 for 6 nights between 22.00 - 05.00

Diversion:
Phase 1 - Local Diversion - Oakfield Lane, Heath Lane Upper, Princes Road and Shepherds Lane

Phase 1 - A2 Diversion - Use the A2 London Bound then exit at the Black Prince junction. Head towards Bexleyheath, cross back across the A2 and exit for the A2 coast bound. Then exit the A2 at the Dartford Heath junction and follow Oakfield Lane, Heath Lane Upper, Princes Road and Shepherds Lane

Phase 2 - Local Diversion - Oakfield Lane, Heath Lane Upper, Princes Road and Shepherds Lane

Phase 2 - A2 Diversion - Use the A2 Coast Bound then exit at the Darenth Interchange. Head for the A2 coast bound. Then exit the A2 at the Dartford Heath junction and follow Oakfield Lane, Heath Lane Upper, Princes Road and Shepherds Lane

Road Name:	Crossways Boulevard, Stone
Extent:	The roundabout, junction with Galleon Boulevard
Date:	17th October 2011 for 4 nights between 19.00 - 00.00
Diversion:	St Clements Way, London Road and Cotton Lane.
Road Name:	Market Street, Dartford
Extent:	From Overy Liberty to outside No.10 Market Street
Date:	31st October 2011 for 4 nights between 20.00 - 02.00
Diversion:	Home Gardens, Westgate Road, West Hill, Shepherds Lane, Princes Road and Lowfield Street.
Road Name:	Longfield Road, Longfield
Extent:	From Manor Road to Melliker Lane
Date:	2nd November 2011 for 3 nights between 19.00 - 00.00
Diversion:	A227 Wrotham Road, A2, New Barn Road and Main Road.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

Road Name: Shepherds Lane, Dartford
Extent: The roundabout junction with Old Bexley Lane and Rochester Way
Date: 4th November 2011 for 7 nights between 19.00 - 00.00
Diversion:
Shepherds Lane - Shepherds Lane, Princes Road, Heath Lane Upper, Oakfield Lane and Old Bexley Lane.
Rochester Way - Rochester Way, Swan Lane, Chastilian Road, Princes Road, Heath Lane Upper, Oakfield Lane and Old Bexley Lane.

Road Name: Lowfield Street, Dartford
Extent: From Instone Road to Heath Street
Date: 26th March 2011 for 4 nights between 19.00 - 00.00
Diversion:
From Dartford - Instone Road, Highfield Road South and Princes Road.
Towards Dartford - Princes Road, Heath Lane Upper, Highfield Road, Westgate Road, Home Gardens, Overy Liberty and Market Street.

Gravesham

Road Name: A227 Wrotham Road, Gravesend
Extent: Between A2 on/off slip and The Fairway
Date: 3rd October 2011 for 15 nights between 19.00 - 00.00
Diversion:
Phase 1: The Fairway to Coldharbour Road - Coldharbour Road, Earl Road, Perry Street, Pedham Road South, Old Road West, Old Road East, Valley Drive and the A2.
Phase 2: From the A2 up to and including the roundabout at Coldharbour Road - the A2, Valley Drive, Old Road East, Old Road West, Pedham Road South, Perry Street, Earl Road and Coldharbour Road.

Road Name: A227 Wrotham Road and Gravesend Road, Meopham
Extent: Between Willow Walk and Newlands Lane
Date: 20th October 2011 for 11 nights between 19.00 - 00.00
Diversion: Longfield Road, Main Road, Green Street Green Road, Darenth Hill, Parsonage Lane, Main Road, Dartford Road, A20 Main Road, A20 Gorse Hill, A20 London Road and A227 Gravesend Road.

Road Name: High Street and The Hill, Northfleet
Extent: Between Factory Road and Dover Road
Date: 23rd October 2011 for 8 nights between 19.00 - 00.00
Diversion: The Hill, London Road, Thames Way and Stonebridge Road.

Road Name: Old Road East, Gravesend
Extent: Between Windmill Street and Parrock Road
Date: 9th November 2011 for 3 nights between 19.00 - 00.00
Diversion:
From Old Road East - Parrock Road, Parrock Street, Lord Street and Windmill Street.
From Old Road West - Singlewell Road and Cross Lane East.

Road Name: Darnley Road, Gravesend
Extent: Between Barrack Row and New Road
Date: 7th March 2011 for 3 nights between 19.00 - 00.00
Diversion: Darnley Road, Old Road West, Dover Road East, Dover Road, Thames Way and Overcliffe.

Road Name: Rochester Road, Gravesend
Extent: The roundabout at junction with Dering Way and Old Road East
Date: 18th March 2011 for 8 nights between 19.00 - 00.00
Diversion:
To access Gravesend - A289 Wainscott By Pass, the A2, A227 Wrotham Road, Old Road West
To access Dering Way - Vehicles will need to use the A226 and use Chalk Road and Lower Higham Road. Access will be gained through the works at a safe period of time.
Dering Way and Old Road East will be closed at the roundabout whilst these works take place.

Tunbridge Wells

Road Name: Powdermill Lane, Tunbridge Wells
Extent: Between Hilgarth and A26 St Johns Road
Date: 7th October 2011 for 5 days between 09.30 - 15.00
Diversion: St Johns Road, Yew Tree Road and Powdermill Lane.

Road Name: Bidborough Ridge, Southborough
Extent: Between Darnley Drive and A26 London Road
Date: 21st October 2011 for 1 night between 18.30 - 06.00
Diversion: Darnley Drive, Bounds Oak Way, Birchwood Avenue and A26 London Road.

Road Name: A267 Frant Road, Tunbridge Wells
Extent: Between St Marks Road and Bayham Road
Date: 26th October 2011 for 5 nights between 18.30 - 06.00
Diversion: Frant Road, Bunny Lane, A26 Eridge Road, A26 London Road, A267 Nevill Street and Frant Road.

Road Name: Longfield Road, Tunbridge Wells
Extent: Between Dowding Way Roundabout and Stag Road
Date: 31st October 2011 for 4 nights between 19.00 - 06.00
Diversion: Darnley Drive, Bounds Oak Way, Birchwood Avenue and A26 London Road.

Road Name: Claremont Gardens, Tunbridge Wells
Extent: For its entire length
Date: 5th March 2012 for 1 day between 08.00 - 17.00.

Maidstone

Road Name: A274 Biddenden Road, Headcorn
Extent: From 100m north of New Stone Bridge to 100m south of New Stone Bridge
Date: 1st November 2011 for 4 nights
Diversion: A274 Headcorn Road / North Street, A262 High Street / Sissinghurst Street, A229 Rocks Hill / Cranbrook Road / High Street / Station Road / Maidstone Road / Staplehurst Road / Linton Hill, B2163 Heath Road / Plough Wents Road / Mill Bank / High Street / Station Road / Wheeler Street.

Road Name: A274 Sutton Road, Maidstone
Extent: Between Gore Court Road and Wallis Avenue (east)
Date: 6th November 2011 for 2 nights
Diversion: A274 sutton Road / Maidstone Road / North Street / Headcorn Road / Maidstone Road / Mill Bank / North Street / High Street / Wheeler Street / Biddenden Road / Headcorn Road / North Street, A262 High Street / Sissinghurst Road / The Street, a229 Rocks Hill / Cranbrook Road / High Street / Station Road / Maidstone Road / Staplehurst Road / Linton Hill / Linton Road / Loose Road, A274 Sutton Road.

Road Name: A249 Sittingbourne Road, Maidstone
Extent: Between Holland Road and Hatherall Road
Date: 7th November 2011 for 6 nights
Diversion: A249 Sittingbourne Road, Penenden Heath Road, Boxley Road, B2012 Holland Road.

Road Name: B2246 Hermitage Lane, Barming
Extent: Between Heath Road and Maidstone Hospital access
Date: 26th February 2012 for 4 nights
Diversion:
Northbound: B2246 Fountain Lane, A26 Tonbridge Road, A20 Terrace Road / London Road, B2246 Hermitage Lane.
Eastbound: B2246 Hermitage Lane, A20 London Road / Rocky Hill, A26 Tonbridge Road, B2246 Fountain Lane.

Road Name: A229 Linton Hill, Linton
Extent: Between Heath Road and Redwall Lane
Date: 2nd March 2012 for 10 nights
Diversion: A229 Linton Hill / Staplehurst Road / Maidstone Road / Station Road / High Street / Cranbrook Road / Rocks Hill, A262 The Street / Sissinghurst Road / High Street, A274 North Street / Headcorn Road / Biddenden Road / Wheeler Street / Station Road / North Street / Maidstone Road, B2163 Plough Wents Road / Heath Road.

Road Name: A229 Cranbrook Road, Staplehurst
Extent: Between Frittenden Road and Pinnock Lane
Date: 15th March 2012 for 2 nights
Diversion: A229 Cranbrook Road / Rocks Hill, A262 The Street / Sissinghurst Road / High Street, A274 North Street / Headcorn Road / Biddenden Road / Wheeler Street / Station Road / High Street / North Street / Mill Bank / Maidstone Road / Headcorn Road / North Street / Maidstone Road, B2163 Plough Wents Road / Heath Road, A229 Linton Hill / Staplehurst Road / Maidstone Road / Station Road / High Street / Cranbrook Road.

Road Name: A229 Staplehurst Road, Marden
Extent: Between Stilebridge Lane and B2079 Maidstone Road
Date: 19th March 2012 for 2 nights
Diversion: A229 Staplehurst Road / Maidstone Road / Station Road / High Street / Cranbrook Road / Rocks Hill, A262 The Street / Sissinghurst Road / High Street, A274 North Street / Headcorn Road / Biddenden Road / Wheeler Street / Station Road High Street / North Street / Mill Bank / Maidstone Road / Headcorn Road / North Street / Maidstone Road, B2163 Plough Wents Road / Heath Road, A229 Linton Hill.

Road Name: A229 High Street / Station Road, Staplehurst
Extent: Approx 50m on north and south approaches to junction with Headcorn Road / Marden Road
Date: 21st March 2012 for 3 nights
Diversion: A229 High Street / Cranbrook Road / Rocks Hill, A262 The Street / Sissinghurst Road / High Street, A274 North Street / Headcorn Road / Biddenden Road / Wheeler Street / Station Road / High Street / North Street / Mill Bank / Maidstone Road / Headcorn Road / North Street / Maidstone Road, B2163 Plough Wents Road / Heath Road, A229 Linton Hill / Staplehurst Road / Maidstone Road / Station Road.

Road Name: B2012 Holland Road, Maidstone
Extent: Between Wheeler Street and Sittingbourne Road
Date: 26th March 2012 for 4 nights
Diversion: Boxley Road, Penenden Heath Road, A249 Sittingbourne Road.

Tonbridge and Malling

Road Name: A26 Woodgate Way, Tonbridge
Extent: Between A2214 Pembury Road and B2017 Five Oak Green Road
Date: 13th October 2011 for 2 nights between 22.00 - 05.00
Diversion: B2014 Pembury Road, B2260 Quarry Hill Road/Railway Approach, Vale Road, Avenue Du Puy, Sovereign Way, Vale Road, A26 Vale Rise, A26 Woodgate Way.

Road Name: A26 High Street, Hadlow
Extent: Between Carpenters Lane and Court Lane
Date: 12th March 2012 for 3 nights between 19.00 - 05.00
Diversion: A26 Tonbridge Road, A26 Hadlow Road, A26 Cornwallis Avenue, A26 Hadlow Road, A26 Cannon Lane, A26 Vale Road, A26 Woodgate Way, B2017 Five Oak Green Road, a228 Whetsted Road, A228 Branbridges Road, A228 Boyle Way, A228 Sevenmile Lane and A26 Maidstone Road.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate Carriageway Resurfacing works to be undertaken by Kent Highway Services.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

BECKETT ROAD, BROOKLAND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new electricity supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Beckett Road, Brookland, on or after 3 October 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of 'The Limes'.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Harvey Road and Brack Lane.

The alternative route is via Harvey Road, King Street and Brack Lane.

CLIFTON GARDENS, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains renewal, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Clifton Gardens, Folkestone, on or after 5 October 2011 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via The Leas, Clifton Road and Sandgate Road.

GREEN LANE, RHODES MINNIS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Green Lane, Rhodes Minnis, on or after 5 October 2011 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Hempsted Lane/Woodland Road and Longage Hill.

The alternative route is via Hempsted Lane, B2068 Stone Street, Mockbeggar and The Minnis.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

BELLEVUE ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new electricity supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bellevue Road, Ramsgate, on or after 23 October 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Augusta Road and Artillary Road.

The alternative route is via B2054 Victoria Road, Victoria Parade and Plains of Waterloo.

THANET ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new electricity supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Thanet Road, Broadstairs, on or after 3 October 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of 13 Albion Street.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Albion Street and Prospect Road.

The alternative route is via Albion Street, High Street, Prospect Place and Thanet Road.

UPPER DUMPTON PARK ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install a new electricity supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Upper Dumpton Park Road, Ramsgate, on or after 18 October 2011 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 31.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Claremont Place and Ann's Road.

The alternative route is via A255 Boundary Road, Denmark Road and St Luke's Avenue.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (COURT LANE, HADLOW) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Court Lane, Hadlow from A26 High Street to Pierce Mill Lane on or after Wednesday 5th October 2011 between 20:00hrs and 05:00hrs for a period of up to 2 weeks or until such works are complete.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

The alternative route is via A26 High Street/Tonbridge Road/Hadlow Road, Three Elm Lane, Tonbridge Road, Hatches Lane.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to upgrade BT cable. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Craig Self on 01842 762973.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (SANDY LANE, ADDINGTON) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Sandy Lane, outside plot adjacent to "Downland" on or after Saturday 22nd October 2011 when required for a period of up to 9 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Ford Lane, A20 London Road, St Vincents Lane.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a new gas supply. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Amy Colvin on 01689 881315.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (TUDELEY LANE, TONBRIDGE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Tudeley Lane at The Priory Mill Bridge on or after Monday 17th October 2011 for a period of up to 6 months or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Tudeley Lane, A2014 Pembury Road, A26 Woodgate Way, Five Oak Green Road.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to demolish and rebuild the Priory Mill Bridge for highway safety. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Geoff Blatchford on 01622 666000

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 2nd October 2011

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

To advertise in this section 01303 817040



BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BARNFATHER
Simon and Sophia of Whitstable are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful son, Jack Joseph on 14th September 2011. Jack was born at 9.12pm and weighed 9lb 5oz.

BROOKER
Samuel John born on the 6th September 2011, weighing 7lb 9.5oz. Son to Anna Brooker and Christopher Baxter in Maidstone.

CARTY
Isabelle Elsie born on 31st August 2011. Beautiful daughter to Paul and Leanne. Mummy and Daddys special little princess.

CHALMERS-STEVENS
Tricia and Darren Chalmers-Stevens celebrate the birth of their son Oliver Bryon Michael on 13th September 2011, weighing 8lb 3oz. A little brother for Mia Katelyn.

COULSTOCK
Zachary Jason Coulstock born on the 8th September 2011, weighing 3.6 kg, to proud parents Raymond and Myriam.

CRACKNELL
Simon and Kerryanne of Herne Bay are delighted to announce the arrival of a baby brother for Chloe. Hayden Philip was born on 15th September 2011 at The QEQM Hospital

DOBRZANSKA DE ABREU
Christiano and Aleksandra celebrate the birth of their beautiful daughter Emilia on 15th August 2011.

MUNRO
Katie and Scott Munro celebrate the birth of their son Luke Simon Munro on 5th September 2011.

PARSONS
Chris and Jo are delighted to announce the birth of their third son Bobby Miles Parsons. He was born at 9.51 am on 17th August 2011 and weighed 7lb 13oz. A Brother for Oliver and Max.

PARSONS
Chris and Jo are delighted to announce the birth of their third son Bobby Miles Parsons. He was born at 9.51 am on 17th August 2011 and weighed 7lb 13oz. A Brother for Oliver and Max.

RANDALL / VENNER
Oliver Randall born on 11th September 2011, weighing 8lbs 7oz. Son to Karen and Simon in Maidstone.

ROSS
Ljay Willow Ross born on the 18th September 2011, weighing 4lb 14oz. Daughter to John and Francesca.

ROSS
Ljay Willow Ross born on the 18th September 2011, weighing 4lb 14oz. Daughter to John and Francesca.

TOFT
Jez and SamToft are pleased to announce the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Tigerlily Toft. Much loved by everyone, including Summer, Roo and Tiger Nanny Too.

DEATHS

DOWNING
The family of Constance DOWNING of Kennington, Ashford, Kent, previously from Hamble and Hedge End, Hampshire wish to announce the death of their mother at Singleton Nursing Home, Ashford, Kent on Wednesday 21st September 2011. The funeral will be held on 7th October at 3.20pm at Charing Crematorium and afterwards at St Marys Church Hall, Church Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent. All enquiries to Doves Funeral Services, Kingsnorth Road, Ashford, Kent.

HARDWICK
Joan Leslie Hardwick of Dartford passed away peacefully on 14th September 2011. Funeral service at Eltham Crematorium at 11.30am on 5th October 2011. Sadly missed by all.

WINTER
Lisa Winter (nee Thompson) passed away peacefuly on 19th September 2011 at Ellenor Lions Hospice Northfleet. Loving wife to Mark and devoted mother to Danielle, Kelsey and Ellis. Loving daughter of Olive and Roy. She will be forever missed. For funeral arrangements please contact Levertons Funeral Services Dartford.





Take a short wander with your camera by the river

SEE PAGE 51



PLACES TO LIVE

Why it pays for us to set up home in this lovely county

SEE PAGE 58

Kent Weekend

Behind the mask

Join a slightly scary bunch on a wholly bizarre quest

SEE PAGE 55

PLUS: Is Kent set to be England's answer to Hollywood? - **talking point p44**
The origins of a feather that few men were proud to wear - **kent remembered p45** Hyundai is still successfully reliable with its latest offering - **driving p65**







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THE INTERVIEW

Mathew Priest

A Dodgy kind of comeback

Ed Hill finds a band who thrived in the 90s are meeting new challenges



FREE PEACE SWEET: From left: Andy Miller, Nigel Clark and Mathew Priest

WHEN Dodgy hit the big time back in the 90s, the music industry was a very different place. Album and single sales ruled the day, while downloading was unknown.

The trio sold more than a million records worldwide, including three Top 10 hits.

So now they're back, they know they need to find new ways to get their music heard.

Drummer Mathew Priest said: "We didn't want our new album to be overlooked or any cynicism to get in the way. People may say Dodgy are a 90s band – it can just take one cynical music journalist to write you off – but we are very proud of the album and we really wanted people to hear it."

When Dodgy play Whitstable's East Quay in October, fans will be treated to their latest album in the first half. The second part of the show will include the classics.

The band's original line-up of Priest on drums, singer Nigel Clark and guitarist Andy Miller have got together after a break of almost 10 years.

Priest said: "In the mid-90s our world was getting silly. Nigel had a young family and Andy and I didn't. We didn't really understand what that was like when the whole fame thing was kicking off. We stopped communicating and the band broke down. It wasn't really a massive falling out. The pressure just got too much for us all."

But now they are back on tour and promoting their latest album, Stand Upright In A Cool Place. However, they didn't rush into making new music.

Priest said: "Before we recorded a note, we made sure the decks were clear. We didn't want anyone in the studio with any unresolved bitterness. It was a bit like a decorating a wall. They always say the most important work is in the preparation. That is why it did take us a while, but I think Dodgy fans will love it."

The band went to a small recording studio in Malvern to get inspiration and the final album will be released alongside the autumn tour.

The first chance people will get to hear the new songs is live in concert.

Priest said: "There's a bit of a trend of bands just doing one of their old albums in concert.

"This is a statement of intent by us. We want to say we are going to do the whole of our new album in its entirety and see how the fans like it. We want to see how they respond to us just doing something creative and new."

Dodgy were always a band with a conscience. They have supported causes such as the Liverpool dockers' strike and War Child, a charity that helps children affected by war. Dodgy were also one of the first bands to entertain fans in Bosnia after the conflict there.

Priest said: "As a musician you can change people's views and affect their lives. It is important when you get involved in something you believe in that you acknowledge it. We don't search for causes, but you get drawn into things.

"The dockers thing happened because when we were recording in Liverpool, Nigel [Clark] saw a picket line and he asked what it was all about. We then all met the men on strike and said OK, let's do a benefit for you.

"The job of a songwriter is to look at the world in a different way. You do need to have an idealistic view of how you want the world to be. That's what we should all do."

During the 10-year break, Clark recorded an acclaimed solo album. He also went on to help children having difficulty at school.

Priest said: "It is amazing what he gets them to do. After throwing chairs at teachers in one session, he gets them to write a song about their emotions and before long they are smiling and cooperative."

Miller formed Hey Gravity, which had success in Europe, and Priest went into music management before deciding to do an MA in broadcast radio. That led to a project for the BBC called People's Songbook.

But for the moment the band are concentrating on their music.

Priest said: "For us, going into the studio means making a whole album as a piece of work. You don't just look at one corner of a Picasso painting. We feel these new songs hang together when we do them live."

Priest also says having a balanced approach to life helps: "What led to the band splitting before was the fact that we did not have other things going on in our lives. It was the band and nothing else, and that got too claustrophobic."

■ **Dodgy play Whitstable's East Quay on Thursday, October 27; visit www.whitlive.co.uk for more details.**

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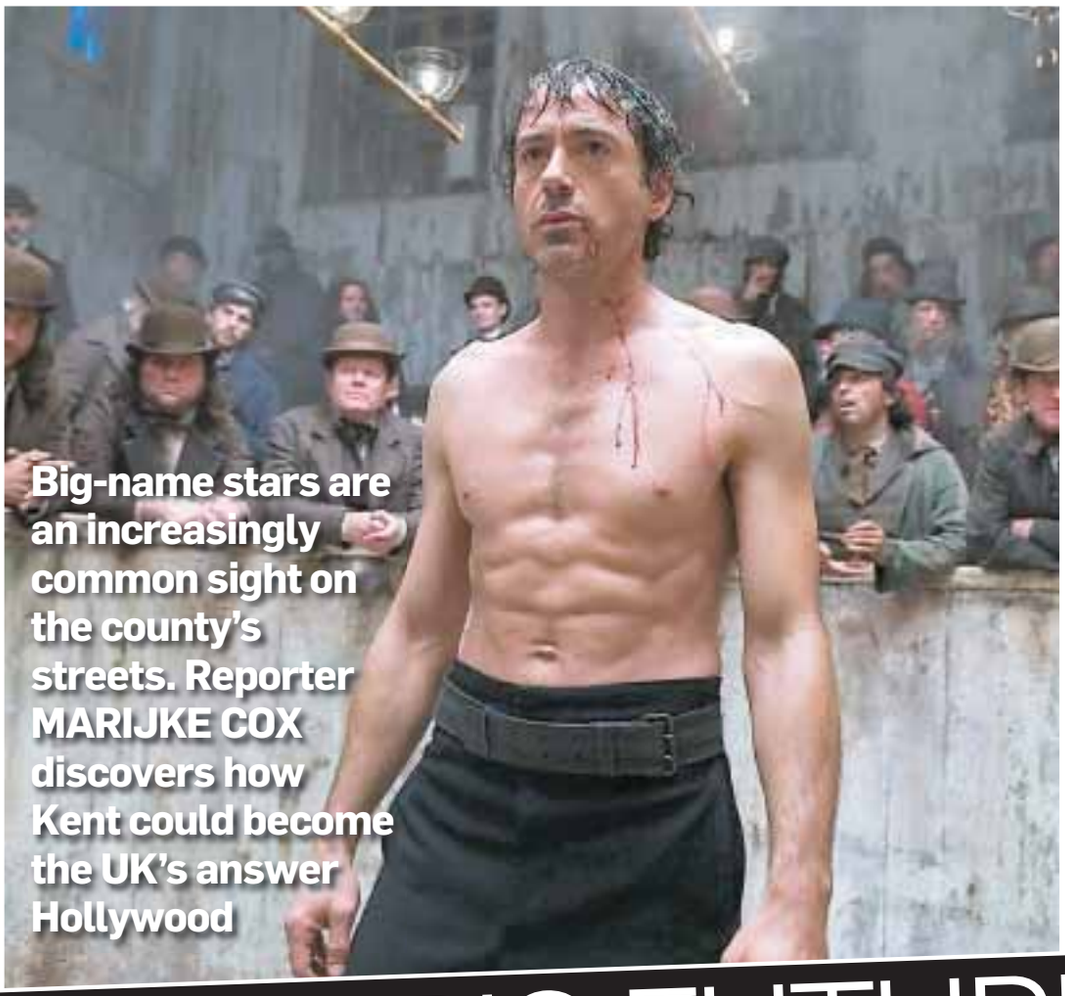
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- Children's Amusements

TALKING **POINT**

Filming in Kent



FIGHT CLUB: Star Robert Downey Jnr filmed scenes for the smash hit Sherlock Holmes film in Chatham

Big-name stars are an increasingly common sight on the county's streets. Reporter MARIJKE COX discovers how Kent could become the UK's answer Hollywood

KENT'S BIG FUTURE ON THE BIG SCREEN

KENT may be a far cry from the dizzying glamour of Hollywood, but with its ability to attract the very best of the movie industry, it could be in the running to becoming England's very own version of Tinseltown.

With areas of the county being chosen as location sites for high profile productions including Pirates of the Caribbean, Sherlock Holmes, and The Other Boleyn Girl, bringing in around £14 million in five years to the local economy, Kent County Council has pulled out all the stops to ensure filmmakers keep on coming.

Not only was a dedicated Kent Film Office established in 2006 – an arm of KCC devoted to generating inward investment from the film and broadcast industries into the economy – but last year a new law was passed allowing for temporary road closures to allow filming to take place.

Kent is the only authority in the UK outside of London to have these legal powers.

Just recently, the KCC (filming on highways) Act 2010 allowed for the filming of a high speed car chase along the A299 carriageway between Faversham and Ramsgate for comedy sequel Johnny English: Reborn, starring Rowan Atkinson, which is due for release on October 7.

It is one of a long list of high profile productions to have been shot at locations around the county.

Scenes from 2008 film The Other Boleyn Girl, starring Scarlett Johansson and Natalie Portman, were filmed at Knole, near Sevenoaks, Dover Castle and Penshurst Place.

Chatham's Historic Dockyard was the setting for several blockbuster films, including The Mummy in 1999, starring Brendan Fraser and Rachel Weisz, where the docks were transformed into the Port of Giza in Egypt.

Scenes from Guy Ritchie's 2009 film Sherlock Holmes, with Jude Law and Robert Downey Jnr, were also filmed at the dockyard and last October saw the cast return to film parts of the sequel, which is due for release in December.

Folkestone was used as the setting for Irish director John Crowley's Is Anybody There? starring Michael Cane, with locals used as extras on the film.

The list of films shot in the county, including some of the James Bond movies and other smaller British films, goes on and on.

But what is it that attracts so many filmmakers and directors to Kent?

KCC cabinet member for customer and communities Cllr Mike Hill said the county had a number of locations and buildings which were attractive to those in the film industry.

"Kent has a long history of filming and KCC's Film Office is proud to bring this tradition right up to date, most recently providing locations for a number of major films including Johnny English: Reborn, Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1, and Burke and Hare.

"Our extensive location database and range of administrative services provides visiting production companies with a prompt and reliable service to enable then to focus on the business of making great films.

"They are also able to draw on the county's creative sector, employing local crew and actors as well as making use of local services from cornershops to hotels and guest houses."

Award-winning filmmaker Bill Maloney, of Pie and Mash Films, said the mix of cultures and contrasts of the towns made it a popular place for filmmakers.

Mr Maloney, who wrote and directed the acclaimed Lunatic, winner of the best international drama feature at the New York International Film and Video Festival in 2008, said he has spent around 10 years coming back and forth to Kent to write and film.

> **"I find Kent fascinating. There are such different cultures. It's all mixed in together and I find that very interesting. I think Kent is becoming a popular place for film-makers to go**
>
> **BILL MALONEY,** FILM-MAKER

"I used to write a lot down there. One of the reasons I made the film The Blunderers was my ties to Kent. I had a chalet at Seaview between Whitstable and Herne Bay.

"I found the mix very interesting. You had the intellect of Whitstable and the lower class of Herne Bay. One day you could go and see art in Whitstable and the next go to Herne Bay to hear some band that's not really very politically correct.

"It's all mixed in together and I find that very interesting."

Mr Maloney, who is planning to film one of his documentaries in Kent, set his 2007 film The Blunderers at the beachside chalet. The gritty comedy tells the story of a middle-aged alcoholic helping his crack-cocaine addicted friend clean up in the seclusion of the north Kent coast.

During filming he spent time in nearby towns casting from the streets in a bid to create reality in his films.

"I find Kent fascinating. There are such different cultures. I've walked a lot around the county, from Herne Bay right up to Reculver and around Seasalter and Faversham.

"I think Kent is becoming a popular place for filmmakers to go."

In the past, the county has been the setting for hit dramas, including the Darling Buds of May, which was filmed in the scenic village of Pluckley.

Doctor Who actor David Tennant is currently in Margate filming for a major new star-studded series of dramas for the BBC.

He was pictured on the set of Love Life, a new drama written and directed by the award-winning Dominic Savage, who grew up in the town.

Billie Piper and former EastEnders actress Lacey Turner are among the big names filming there. Mr Savage said: "Margate is such a fantastic place to make a film.

"It has such great locations which actually have a real romance about them and possess a unique atmosphere which is very suited to a series of love stories.

"Being my home town it also has a special and personal resonance for me. I'm looking forward to coming back."

For a full list of films shot in Kent or for more information about film-making in the county go to www.kent.gov.uk/filmoffice.

HAVE YOUR SAY...

We would like to hear your views on this, or any other story.

Write to: KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth TN25 6SS

Telephone: 01303 817000

Email: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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KENT REMEMBERED



OFF TO WAR: Thousands of troops set off for war on ships starting out from Folkestone Harbour

Coastal town's women first fanned the white feathers of cowardice

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

EMMY award-winning television show Downton Abbey is now in its second series and the opening programme featured a little known piece of Kentish history.

It showed two of the family servants being presented with white feathers by women – a way of branding them as cowards for not joining up and serving in the trenches of the 1914-18 war.

The drama by Julian Fellowes is fiction – but this really did happen on many occasions.

And it all started on the seafront at Folkestone where thousands of soldiers each month embarked on troopships from the pier bound for France.

The Road of Remembrance in the town still commemorates their sacrifice, as it leads from the war memorial to the harbour. Plans are also underway to mark the town's part in the conflict with a museum.

But the 'feather girls' are one of the many controversial aspects of the brutal war.

In August, 1914, Admiral Charles Fitzgerald founded the Order of the White Feather to shame what he called "slackers" into joining the forces.

With the support of leading writers such as Mary Ward and Emma Orczy, the organisation encouraged women to give out the feathers, which have their origin as the mark of losers in cock fighting.

A 1902 novel called The Four Feathers about Harry Faversham who resigned his officer commission rather than fight in the Sudan, reinforced the idea.



Picture: CARNIVAL FILMS

PRESSURE: White feathers were presented to two men in Downton Abbey's first episode

In the book – twice made into a movie, the later version staring Heath Ledger – fellow officers and his finance taunt him with feathers until he rejoins the Army and reclaims his honour.

About 30 women went out in Folkestone and accosted any man not in uniform saying: "Are you deaf or indifferent to your country's needs?"

They then reminded their victims that British troops were dying just 20 or so miles across the sea before presenting the feathers and saying: "Here's a gift for a brave soldier."

Newspaper reports of the actions meant they spread – but often the targets were not even civilians. Many were troops on leave and out of uniform.

Even fictional air ace Biggles received a feather in a short story, while on a visit to Lympne on leave.

One young woman remembers her father, Robert Smith, being given a feather on his way home from work: "That night he came home and cried his heart out. My father was no coward, but had been reluctant to leave his family. He was 34 and my mother, who had two young children, had been suffering from a serious illness. Soon after this incident my father joined the Army."

The Government became concerned when women began presenting state employees with white feathers.

It was suggested to Home Secretary Reginald McKenna the women should be arrested for "conduct likely to disrupt". McKenna refused but he did arrange for state employees to be issued with badges testifying they were serving "King and Country".

Although a serving soldier, the writer Compton Mackenzie, complained about the Order of the White Feather. He argued that these "idiotic young women were using white feathers to get rid of boyfriends of whom they were tired".

Pacifist and socialist, Fenner Brockway claimed he received so many white feathers he had enough to make a fan.

And the grandfather of historian Francis Beckett was exempt from service because he had three young daughters. But after receiving a feather he volunteered as a rifleman and died of his wounds in 1918.

Beckett's mother – one of the three daughters – later hit out at "that unknown woman who gave him a white feather and the thousands of brittle, self-righteous women all over the country, who had done the same".

■ **For news and sport see www.yourshepway.co.uk.**

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Intrepid mums' retro-food van idea really takes off

Ed Hill talks to Ruth and Susan Tidd, who have taken inspiration from the 50s for their Flying Ducks business

THE mobile food van is known mainly for dishing out bacon butties and burgers, but one new business wants to change all that.

Flying Ducks was set up by sisters-in-law Ruth and Susan Tidd. The duo wanted to create an eating experience that harked back to the bygone age of the 40s and 50s.

Susan said: "We got our name from the three Beswick ducks that were popular on the walls of people's homes in the 50s. We dress up in 50s clothing when we go to events and we use old china from the time as well."

The business revolves around its unique caravan converted to offer good food.

Susan, who is based in Bromley, said: "We bought it off eBay from a place near Hever about two years ago. It didn't cost us much, but we have spent a lot converting it into a mobile food van."

The old-style trailer is painted a distinctive duck-egg blue to tie in with the business's name.

Susan said: "We are a fully-independent kitchen on the move. It has a six-burner hob and an LPG urn for teas and coffees and refrigeration. We like to decorate the caravan with bunting during the day. At night we put up fairy lights and underneath there are neon lights."

The main focus of the business is to create new and distinctive food on the move.

Flying Ducks must be doing something right as it was recently short-listed for the British Street Food Awards held at TV presenter and food campaigner Jimmy Doherty's farm in Essex.

People in Kent have the chance to try the food when the van takes part in this weekend's Broadstairs Food Festival, which began on Friday (September 30).

"I have a second home in Broadstairs, so I know the town well," said Susan. "We are really looking forward to the festival. We want to source local suppliers. We like to incorporate other small businesses in what we do."

One of the van's signature dishes is a fish-finger sandwich.



ON THE GO: Ruth, left, and Susan Tidd bought their caravan on eBay and will be pulling up at this month's Broadstairs Food Festival

Susan said: "We use sustainable fish. We serve it with tomatoes and lettuce, crème fraiche and capers and make our own Tartare sauce and mayonnaise. We also have a 'guilty pleasures' board where you can ditch healthy things and have white bread and ketchup."

With Ruth's years of experience in catering and delicatessens, Flying Ducks is not short of interesting new recipes.

Foodies can also enjoy stumble crumble, which has rhubarb soaked in gin. For the Street Food Awards the van served raging-bull pie – a cottage pie with a bit of a kick.

The van can be hired for big events or small, and it seems the concept is taking off, with bookings increasing all the time.

Susan said: "We recently did the vintage festival on the South Bank. Ruth has been in catering for more than 25 years. My experience is more recent.

"At the moment I still work at a boys' school in Beckenham, but that could change if the business really takes off. In a way we are just a couple of mums being very industrious."

■ **To find out more about the business, visit www.theflyingducks.co.uk**

March up to top of the hill for Duke of York's theme nights

RESTAURANT **Review**

HAVING heard that themed food evenings had been proving popular at the Duke of York inn at Guston, just outside Dover, I knew I had to make a visit – not least because I love my value for money!

With a price of just £7.99 for as much as you can eat plus a drink, I couldn't help but wonder if it was all rather too good to be true.

Thursday night is curry-buffet night at the Duke of York (a Brewers Fayre venue), and that seemed as good a place to start as any, especially to a spice freak like me.

And so it was that I ripped into a mild (unusual for me) and spicy combination of chicken korma with beef Madras, along with a small Goan vegetable curry, which was hotter than I expected.



Accompanied by mango chutney, rice and naan bread, the food was excellent and the service prompt and friendly.

In fact, so good was the food that I was back the following week, on the Monday, to tuck into the Chinese buffet.

I plumped for chicken and mushrooms in oyster sauce, alongside beef in black-bean sauce, with accompanying rice. It was an unusual combination for me but extremely tasty. Suffice to say, I made several return visits to the counter – I simply couldn't get enough of it!

I was on a roll now and, almost before I knew it, was back the next Sunday for the carvery (£11 for three courses, or £9 for a starter and main).

I feasted on superb vegetable soup, turkey and pork with crackling. The vegetables, potatoes and Yorkshire puddings completed the experience.

This is no-frills dining, but it's excellent quality and gives some the chance to experience a range of dishes they may not otherwise order.

Friday is the 'chip shop buffet' – I've yet to try that one, but I will!

Nick Ames

■ **Duke of York**
Jubilee Way, Guston, Dover CT15 5FD
Telephone: 08701 977075
www.dukeofyorkbrewersfayre.com

Farmers' markets

Penshurst

THE Times recently named Penshurst farmers' market in its Top Ten markets in the UK. With more than 30 stalls offering the best local food and drink, it is held against the wonderful backdrop of Penshurst Place on the first Saturday of each month.

Egerton

EGERTON farmers' market has now been trading every Friday from 2pm to 4.30pm for almost five years, with most of the original stallholders still selling at the market in the Millennium Hall, which is extremely popular with both local producers and consumers.

Meopham

MEOPHAM farmers' market has been operating since July 2004 in the overflow car park of the Meopham fitness and tennis centre, the site of the school, library and doctors' surgery on the first Sunday of the month from 9am to 12.30pm.

Mersham

FEATURING top-quality produce from the immediate rural area, the new market that is now held at the Farriers Arms, Mersham Forstal, takes place between 2.30pm and 6.30pm on every second and fourth Friday of the month.

Sissinghurst

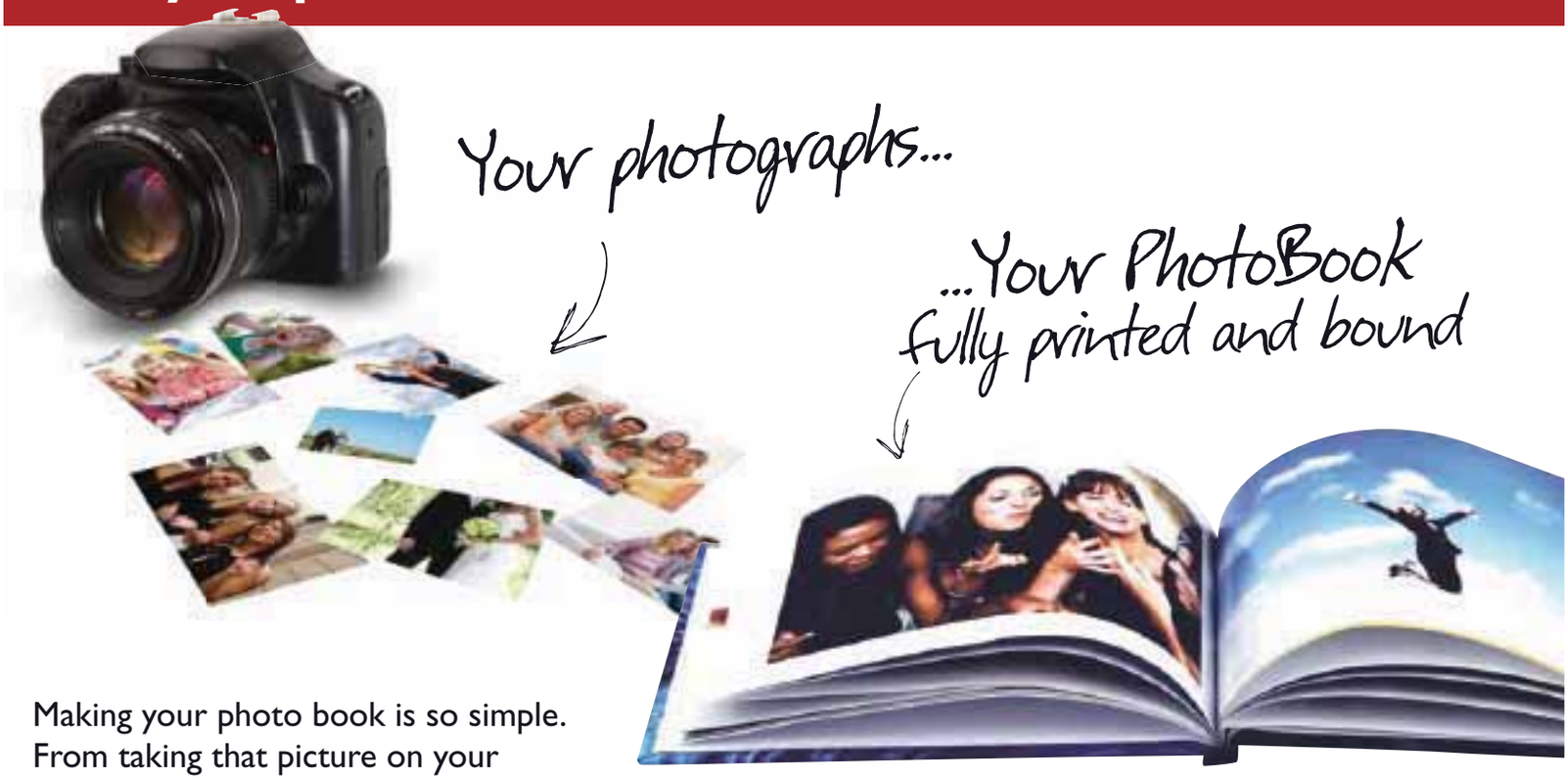
THIS market is located in the ancient Elizabethan Barn, next to the Granary restaurant within the famous Sissinghurst National Trust site on the second Monday of every month, when the gardens are open between midday and 3pm.

Iwade

IWADE village hall first opened its very popular farmers' market in February 2009 and it takes place on the first Sunday of the month from 10am until 1pm, offering fresh seasonal local produce at competitive prices.

■ **For more farmers' markets, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk**

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The top places to eat, drink and be merry

THERE is no need for the cocktail sausages or slices of flan this year, while the drunken photocopier tricks will certainly be redundant as Kent's finest establishments gear themselves up for the party season.

Warm open fires, good traditional food and plenty of crackers are the order of the day and Kent's eateries can provide that and a whole lot more.

With under three months until the big day, Christmas-party organisation will be high on the list for many people, whether it be a family gathering, a work do, or even just a romantic meal with a loved one.

Tables and dates get booked up fast in Kent, so a good tip is to start getting an idea of numbers and talking to proprietors of possible venues.

Across the county, there is a whole feast of different restaurants offering festive-meal packages and live entertainment that takes the celebrations long into the night.

From five-course lunches offering turkey, cranberries, locally-sourced vegetables and all the trimmings, to the coastal eatery's catch of the day, Kent has something to suit surely anyone's taste.

And if you are not in the mood for cooking this year, or the family has not sent an invitation due to last year's Scrabble confrontation, there is always the option of eating out on Christmas Day itself.

As it says in the song, Christmas comes but once a year, so why not give the old boozer down the road a miss and go out for some real Kentish food, some great entertainment and some top laughs in one of the wonderful, picturesque restaurants our lovely county has to offer. Here are six of the best.



Comfort Inn
Ramsgate

Why here...
The Comfort Inn at Ramsgate offers a menu of traditional, home-cooked food, as well as a great atmosphere and friendly staff. Why not continue into the evening and stay the night?

On the menu...
There are a number of set menu options for this year's festive period:
- pre-Christmas lunch £14.95
- pre-Christmas dinner £19.95
- Christmas Day lunch £44.95
- New Year's Eve dinner £45

How to book...
Comfort Inn Ramsgate
phone: 01843 592345
email: reservations@comfortinnramsgate.co.uk





London Beach
Tenterden

Why here...
The London Beach Country Hotel has Christmas parties on Friday and Saturday nights throughout December, with a delicious three-course meal, party favourites and a disco until 11.30pm, all for £39.95.

On the menu...
Christmas Day is always very popular, at £60 per adult and £30 per child aged between 10 and 16. This includes an exquisite five-course menu featuring something to suit everyone's palate.

How to book...
London Beach Country Hotel, Ashford Road, Tenterden TN30 6HX; phone: 01580 766279; email: enquiries@londonbeach.com



Waterfront
Dover Marina

Why here...
Make your Christmas special this year. Set in an elegant Victorian crescent directly overlooking Dover's seafront, the Waterfront Restaurant is the ideal place to celebrate Christmas. It offers delicious festive fare, a warm and friendly ambience, resident pianist and superb sea views. Throughout December there are festive lunches and dinner and party nights. For an exceptional Christmas Day or New Year, the Waterfront is the perfect choice.

On the menu...
À la carte and set Christmas menus using only the best of local ingredients. For a sumptuous six-course Christmas Day lunch and New Year's Eve dinner, the chefs provide classical festive dishes with a modern touch.

How to book...
Waterfront Restaurant, Best Western Dover Marina Hotel and Spa, Waterloo Crescent, Dover CT17 9BP; phone: 01304 203633; email: reservations@dovermarinahotel.co.uk

Wallett's Court
St Margaret's

Why here...
Few places are as special as Wallett's Court Hotel and Restaurant, especially in the cold winter months. The beautiful 16th-century manor provides the perfect setting for a Christmas party.

On the menu...
The hotel is offering a fantastic three-course Christmas party menu for £30. With award-winning cuisine and a relaxed atmosphere, make this Christmas do a special one.

How to book...
Wallett's Court Country House Hotel, Westcliffe, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe CT15 6EW
phone: 01304 852 424





The Olive Tree
Ramada Dover

Why here...
With both the Grand Marquee and Olive Tree restaurant available for Christmas parties, there is no better way to celebrate the festive period with family and friends. Festive Fayre lunches include a superb three-course meal with all the Christmas trimmings, while party nights offer all this, plus a disco until midnight.
Bookings are also being taken for Christmas Day lunch and the fabulous New Year's Eve celebrations.

On the menu...
Christmas Fayre lunches and party nights offer a three-course meal, with mains served from the buffet, while the ever-popular Christmas Day lunch is a four-course meal with a choice of six main-course options available from the buffet.

How to book...
The Ramada Hotel Dover, Singledge Lane, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3EL
phone: 01304 821230; email: events@ramadadover.co.uk



Leas Cliff Hall
Folkestone

Why here...
Christmas parties take place each year in the Channel Suite, the perfect venue for a magical festive get-together, with stunning views overlooking the English Channel.

On the menu...
There are dates available throughout December, and your evening will include a welcome drink on arrival, a three-course seasonal meal and a disco until 2am, all for £30 per person.

How to book...
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
For more information, email lchfunctions@leascliffhallco.uk or phone 01303 228606

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- Included excursions
- All transfers abroad

Tuscany Coast & Country Florence & Portovenere

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9 & 10 days

Quote KT-KOS

From £999pp

Departs: 13 April (10 days) 14 May & 17 Sept, 2012 (9 days)



On our journey of discovery to Italy, experience the French TGV train outbound and overnight train with private cabin and Eurostar home - Florence to London with just 1 train change.

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- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris or Lille outbound
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- Sleeper train and Eurostar home to London
- All transfers abroad





Warner Drinks Inclusive Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Norton Grange Resort, Isle of Wight - Self drive

3 nights, semi-all-inclusive

Quote NX11-KOS

Was £209
Now £199pp

November 25 to 28, 2011

Come and join our exclusive, annual Christmas party - for over 40s only - at Warner Norton Grange resort on Yarmouth seafront, Isle of Wight. With a friendly, cosy atmosphere this popular Warner resort serves up a host of festive season treats and free drinks at a great value-for-money price.

INCLUDED:

- Free return Car Ferry - worth £40
- Free drinks from 3.30pm to 11pm Friday, 12 noon to 11pm Saturday & Sunday - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Bed, breakfast & 3 course evening meals
- Mulled wine & mince pie on arrival
- 'Christmas' dinner & visit from Santa
- Cabaret entertainment & disco every night
- En-suite chalet - upgrades available
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna



4-star New Year at Honiley Court Hotel, Warwick

Self drive, 2 nights half board

Quote HN12-KOS

£145pp

Arrive 30 Dec or 31 Dec, 2011

The charming Brook Honiley Court Hotel is situated in a peaceful location in the rural village of Honiley, in Warwickshire.

Dating back to the 16th century, the hotel was originally a farmhouse which became a pub which is now incorporated into the hotel, conserving features of the original building and maintaining the original character.

The Boot Restaurant provides a modern dining experience in these traditional surroundings and is popular with locals and guests alike.

All bedrooms are spacious and comfortable and have and en suite bathroom, tea/coffee making facilities, trouser press, flatscreen television, radio, hairdryer, iron & ironing board.

INCLUDED:

- En-suite accommodation
- Afternoon tea on arrival (30 Dec only)
- 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners - including a New Year's Eve dinner-dance & disco & New Year's Day brunch



Carry on New Year at the 4-star London International Hotel

2 nights half board

Quote LC1-KOS

£119pp

January 2 to 4, 2012

Extend the New Year celebration at the 4-star Britannia London International Hotel, situated on the water's edge of the London Docklands with superb views of the London skyline.

You will enjoy dinner and breakfast each day, a 99p bar and entertainment both evenings.

The Canary Wharf Health Club & Gym is a great way to keep in shape or relax. This fully equipped Leisure Club offers features a swimming pool, sauna and state of the art gym (£2.50 per day payable at the hotel).

All bedrooms have an en suite bathroom with bath and shower, TV, hairdryer and direct-dial phone.

The hotel is located outside the congestion charge zone.

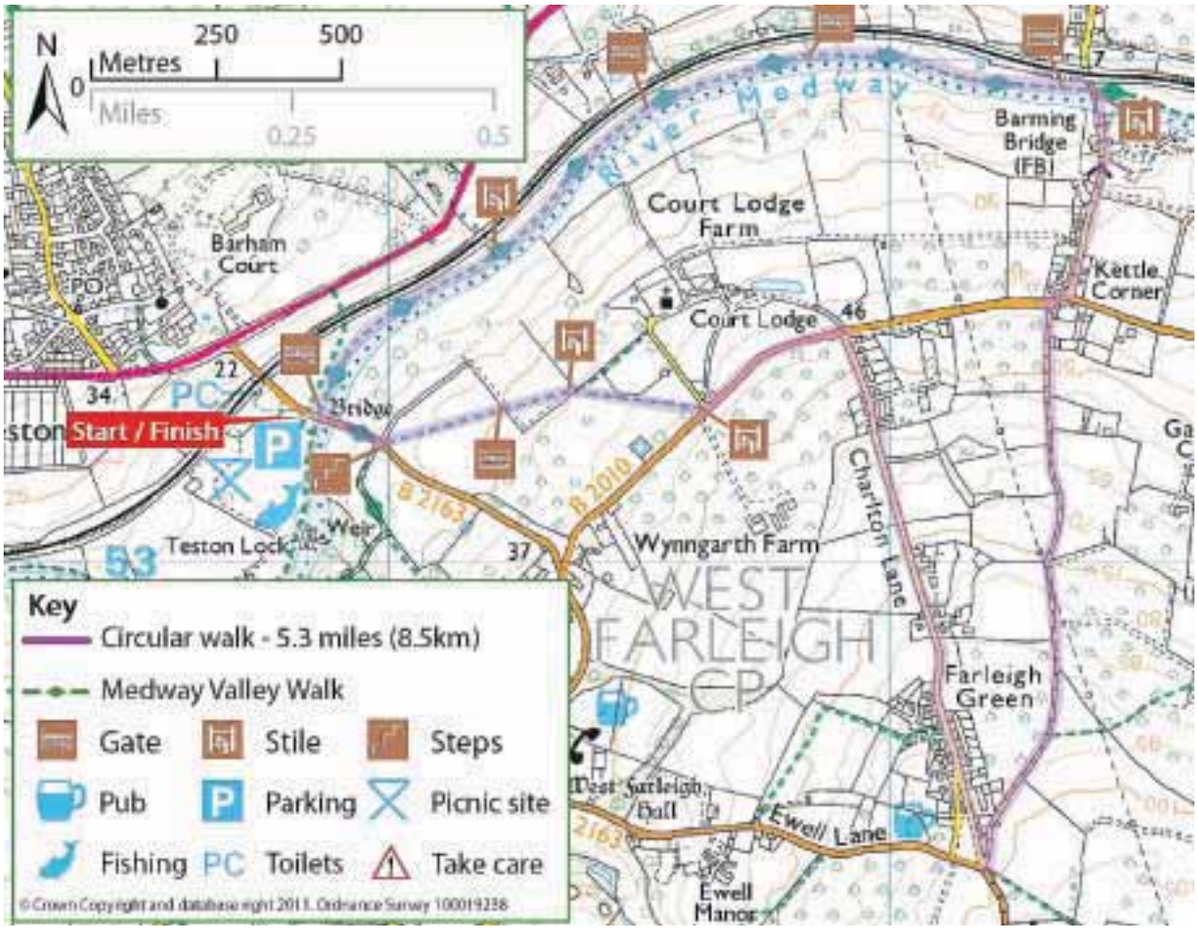
INCLUDED:

- En-suite accommodation
- 99p bar from 7pm to 11pm both evenings for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts
- Entertainment

WALK

West Farleigh

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent



Steeped in local history, West Farleigh boasts a stunning circular walk along the banks of the River Medway, before turning inland, where the beautiful landscape is host to a true wealth of wildlife

THE changing seasons can really inspire you to get out and explore. So why not arm yourself with a camera and discover the wildlife and tranquillity of the River Medway?

West Farleigh hosts one of the river's short circular walks that provides excellent photographic opportunities for those with a keen eye.

An abundance of wildlife can be found along the riverbanks: birds such as kingfisher and barn owl; many insects, including butterflies and dragonflies; and mammals like water voles and even otters, although you would be incredibly fortunate to see the latter.

Starting at Teston Bridge Country Park, the route quickly takes you down to the riverside and continues alongside the bank through grazed grassland towards Kettle Bridge, otherwise known as Barming Bridge.

There has been a crossing here since before Roman times. Then there was a ford on which the Romans laid cobbles.

Apparently, if you dive down to the bottom of the river you can still see the remains of the old cobbles. The fords were replaced with bridges to preserve the crossing points when the level of the water was raised by the introduction of sluices and weirs.

The area is rich in local history – it is said that the houses at the top of the hill played a part in secret smuggling exploits. Residents would signal the all-clear to boats moored so they could unload their booty without being caught.

At West Farleigh Green you have the chance to stop and rest a while; either on the benches if you come prepared with a flask of hot tea, or at The Good Intent pub, which is ideally situated on the route.

As you pass by Church Lane, why not take a short detour through the grounds of All Saints Church and take a closer look at this beautiful building?

Originally built around 1100, the chancel arch, original west door and narrow round-headed windows from this period are deemed to be typically early Norman.

There are many parts that have been added or changed since.

A cross made of bronze, brass and wood was saved by a priest during the Reformation by burying it here. In fact, it was hidden so well that it was not discovered for another 300 years.

The cross now resides in the British Museum.

All this history and atmosphere, coupled with the beautiful landscapes and abundance of wildlife, makes this an ideal walk to enjoy at this beautiful time of year.

- **Location:** West Farleigh, ME18 5BX
- **Distance:** 3.5 miles (5.8 km) – allow one hour and 45 minutes
- **OS Explorer Map:** 148
- **Terrain:** There is one steep hill; the rest of the route is downhill or flat
- **Gates:** Five
- **Stiles**: Three
- **Steps:** one set of six steps
- **Step count:** approximately 7,000
- **Parking:** There is pay-and-display car park at Teston Bridge Country Park

Explore Kent

EXPLORE Kent is your one-stop shop for Kent's best walks, bike rides, horse rides and parks. With inspirational videos, a free iPhone map application, ideas for days out and much more, you can explore and enjoy Kent's countryside and coast.

Visit the website www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent, or phone 08458 247600 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm).





THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS: Walkers can enjoy a stroll along the banks of the River Medway before a more taxing effort across the nearby countryside

KENT ATTRACTIONS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Art exhibition
Teenage times are a changin'

Turner Contemporary, Margate
September to January
www.turnergallery.org

NOTHING In The World But Youth is the latest display at the landmark gallery in Margate. It explores how youth experience has been reflected in art, culture and the media since the late 19th century, when adolescence emerged in cultural consciousness as a distinct phase of life, to now.
Inspired by Margate and associated in the collective memory with theme parks, beauty contests and clashes between Mods and Rockers in the 1960s, this exhibition reflects on what it means to be a teenager, both now and in the past.
There are also Late Night Live events at the gallery such as Move, on Friday, October 28, which is a dance-off crossing three generations.



The very best of The Eagles
A Talonted lot

Woodvill Halls, Gravesend
Saturday, October 8, at 7.30pm
01474 337774
www.woodvillehalls.com

TALON re-create the opening night of The Eagles winter 2004 tour, reigniting the magic from the band's all-time best-selling farewell shows.
Audiences can expect all the classic hits from the timeless back catalogue, including Hotel California, Lyin' Eyes, Take it Easy, Desperado and many more.
Don Henley's solo hits Boys Of Summer, Dirty Laundry and All She Wants To Do Is Dance will also feature, as well as Rocky Mountain Way by Joe Walsh.
Talon are recognised as the definitive Eagles tribute show. Now in their 14th year together, their ability to deliver bigger and better shows year on year continues.
Tickets cost £18, or £17 for children.

Moscow show
Fly high with state circus

Jackson's Recreation Ground, Rochester
October 12-16, 0208 5408122
www.moscowstatecircus.com

THE Moscow State Circus brings its latest and most spectacular show to date to the UK with the sensational extravaganza, Babushkin Sekret.
Inspired by the legend of the 12 chairs, the new show takes audiences on an incredible journey of arguably the greatest non-animal circus-performers on Earth.
A mammoth cast of Russia's greatest and most talented circus artistes, many of whom have never performed in Britain, transform the most famous circus in the world, combining contemporary and classical circus in ways never before witnessed.
The newly-devised show includes the beautiful queen of Russian circus, Yana Alievia, on a revolving aerial chandelier and the breathtaking Stalkions performing pyramids 30 feet in the air on the legendary high-wire.
There is also the Whirlwind Rubsovsm troupe, who catapult themselves across and high into the big top at breakneck speed, as well as the juggling Sherbakovs, the vertical pole balancing of The Alikanov and the high-flying, bouncing bamboo bravados of The Perushkins.
If all this isn't enough to keep you on the edge of your seats, then the clowns Valik and Valerik will have you falling off them with laughter. This is not to be missed.



Myths and monsters
Enchantment

Historic Dockyard Chatham
Sat-Mon, October 22-31
www.thedockyard.co.uk
01634 823800

LAST year's Myths & Monsters half-term holiday activities at The Historic Dockyard Chatham were so popular that they will be running again this year from Saturday, October 22, to Monday, October 31.
At this time of year, when thoughts of witches and ghosts are all around, the friendly witch Megan has stories of mythical creatures from the deep blue oceans which will enchant, rather than scare, the younger ones.
Children will learn about ghost ships, superstitions linked to the sea and the monsters and mermaids that either frightened or tempted the sailors of long ago. This will be accompanied by craft fun every day from 11.30am to 3.30pm
For a small additional charge, mini junior ghost walks, for children aged eight and above, will run every day at 4pm.
There will be a mask-making workshop where children can make and take their own creations, while street art workshops will be available from Monday to Friday, October 24-28, at 11am and 2pm for older children.



Marsh magic
Artists look to the church

Romney Marsh
September to October
artinromneymarsh2010@yahoo.co.uk

AS an important link to the events of the Folkestone Triennial, Art In Romney Marsh 2011 will see 19 contemporary artists exhibiting specially-created, site-specific work in five of the area's medieval churches.
This year, work will be shown in Ivychurch, Old Romney, Newchurch, Burmarsh and Lydd, by permission of the priest-in-charge, Jim Field.
Artists have been encouraged to draw inspiration from the wild, evocative landscape, with its endless skies and scattered herds of longwool sheep, and to respond to the churches themselves, all of which offer stimulating architectural and historical quirks.
The work exhibited includes a wide range of media, including painting, sculpture, installation, film, sound and performance.
On selected dates there will be live performances from musicians chosen for their affinity with the aims of the project. To find out more, phone 01424 427896.

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Great Reclamation Stoneware Clearance Event

From1st & 2nd October & throughout October **CHILSTONE** will be having a stone reclamation sale. There will be Architectural components & Garden ornaments available at amazing prices.
All items are stock lines, some of which are surplus stock, slightly damaged, weathered or antiqued.Some examples of what is available can be seen below otherwise a full list of items can be seen on our web site, click on the stone reclamation sale link on the home page.

ALL PRICES EXCLUDE VAT

Architectural

CA135 Pier Capitals 550mm underside	WAS £89.00	NOW	£49.00 ea.
CA1125 Large Doric columns length 2305mm	WAS £745.00	NOW	£345.00 ea.
CB20 Coping 670mm long x320mm wide	WAS £60.00	NOW	£20.00 ea.
CA261 Lintel 1720 reinforced	WAS £250.00	NOW	£100.00 ea.
16' balls x3	WAS £96.00	NOW	£76.00 ea.

Chelsea Garden House (temple) as seen at
Chelsea Flower Show WAS £6500.00 NOW £3500.00

Plus over 60 various pallets including step treads, coping, columns, string course and much more.

Garden Ornaments

C6700A George IV Fountain & pedestal	WAS £329.00	NOW	£229.00
C2190G Kew Fountain	WAS £1422.00	NOW	£1100.00
CW6 Pool surround 2616mm diameter	WAS £867.00	NOW	£595.00
C9800A Italian shell planter	WAS £795.00	NOW	£495.00
C2370 Boy & Goat statue	WAS £594.00	NOW	£249.00
C2400 French Pedestal 927mm high	WAS £235.00	NOW	£179.00
C4200A Chilstone Bench seat	WAS £304.00	NOW	£199.00
C4500 Fluted urn	WAS £237.00	NOW	£169.00

Assorted sundials and bird baths from £99.00 each

Miscellaneous Items

Teak root bench	WAS £299.00	NOW	£129.00
Teak root chair	WAS £139.00	NOW	£60.00
Teak buckets	WAS £39.00	NOW	£15.00

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STAGE & ARTS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Mask mania
Comedy the Italian way

Theatre Royal Margate
Monday, October 17
01227 787787
theatreroyalmargate.com



COMMEDIA dell'Arte gets a 21st-century facelift in this raucous multilingual masked comedy, made by international companies ArscomicA and O'Pernacchio and the UK's Slingshot Theatre.
Directed by renowned Commedia artist Antonio Fava, who is also responsible for the beautifully-crafted bulbous white-leather masks, The Zanniskinheads And The Quest For The Holy Balls is a riotous and unique physical comedy event, performed by comic duo Christopher Hawes and Jean-Luc Grandin.
The show features Peenut and Ribbòn. The set is painted by London artist Lewis Campbell (aka Lost Monkey), known for his graphic novels. Tickets cost £12, concessions £10.

Top tribute
Let's hang on for Franky V

Woodville Halls, Gravesend
Friday, October 21, at 7.30pm
01474 337774
www.woodvillehalls.com



LET'S Hang On takes fans on a musical journey through the prolific career of one of the most successful bands of all time – Frankie Valli And The Four Seasons.
You will hear the story of the blue-collar boys as it's told at the Woodville Halls in Gravesend, as well as the band's greatest hits.
Frankie Valli And The Four Seasons wrote their own songs, invented their own sound and took the world by storm, all before any of the group reached the age of 30.
The audience will hear numbers from the early 50s, when Valli joined the group, as well as from the later days, after Bob Gaudio had joined the band. In short, there's a wealth of classic material that is re-created to perfection.
You will be dancing in the aisles and singing at the top of your voices to memorable hits like December 1963, Beggin', Can't Take My Eyes Off You, Grease, Working My Way Back To You and Who Loves You?
Possibly the band's greatest song, Bye Bye Baby, is sure to bring the house down.
Tickets cost £16.50, or £15 for children.

Festival
Music from all over the world

Equator Music Festival
Ashford, Chatham, Folkestone and Whitstable
www.equatorfestival.com

THE organisers of the Equator Festival have announced their autumn 2011 programme.
Now in its fifth year, the festival, organised by Shiva Nova, the acclaimed cutting-edge world-performance company, will run from Saturday, October 8, across a number of venues in Ashford, Chatham, Folkestone and Whitstable.
The festival will provide audiences the opportunity to enjoy an exciting programme of vibrant, diverse, eclectic and impressive dance performances and music from Latin America, southern Africa, eastern Europe and India.
The event will start on Saturday, October 8, with CoCo Xpress and their infectious Latino rhythms from Cuba to Colombia and draws to a close on Saturday, December 3, with a performance by the Master Blues Brothers tribute band.
Festival highlights include Black Umfolosi, a multi-performance group from Zimbabwe, African band Kasai Masai and the Gypsy Fiddle Feast with Tatcho Drom.

Photographic competition
Treetastic!

Singleton Environment Centre, Ashford
email: kent@btcv.org.uk
deadline: Wed, November 30

THE British Trust For Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) are inviting entries for their first woodland photographic competition. Participants are invited to submit images depicting woodland scenes, whether they are of individual trees, micro-habitats, woodland wildlife, larger woodland landscape or smaller urban woodland environments.
Successful photographs will capture the life and light of their chosen scene and demonstrate the beauty and importance of woodland.
All images will be exhibited on Saturday, December 3, at Singleton Environment Centre, when the winning photographs will be chosen.
The BTCV will display all entries on their website.
The categories are under- 12s, 12-18 and over-18s. Winners from all categories will receive a free place on one of the BTCV workshops as well as a tree-identification book.
In addition, the overall winner will have their photograph printed in a Tree Of Life book.
Images must be supplied both as a 9in x 6in print and jpegs (saved on a CD).
The size of electronic entries should be no smaller than 1 mb. All entries must be labelled clearly with name, email address, phone number and photo location. The postal address is BTCV Photo Comp, Singleton Environment Centre, Wesley School Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 5LW.





Solo show
Double queen from history

Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs
Sunday, October 2
0845 262663

THE acclaimed actress Eileen Page, who last appeared as Victorian actress Ellen Terry, returns to the Memorial Theatre to perform a dramatised reading of Eleanor of Aquitaine.
Page has staged this production at the Jermyn Street Theatre in London and theatres nationwide, while her performance at the Edingburgh Festival was given a five-star rating.
This reading promises to draw the audience into the life of another dynamic woman of history and legend, Eleanor of Aquitaine, one of the most wealthy and powerful women of the Middle Ages and the only woman to be both Queen of France and England, after she married Henry II.
The reading will be performed at the Memorial Theatre, Hilderstone, Broadstairs. The show is staged in conjunction with the Sarah Thorne Theatre Club.
Tickets cost £10.50 for members and £12.50 for non-members.
Seats are bookable in advance from the box office on 0845 2626263. While the 24-hour booking rule applies to non-members of the Sarah Thorne Club, seats can be reserved by phone or by email at info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk to avoid disappointment.
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(T&C's below)

DIANA attractive lady, OHAC, blue eyes, fair hair, 5ft 4ins, slim, 60, seeks caring gent. Kent based. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376803**

BERYL 68, ex nurse, lonely, seeking gent of similar age. Medway. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376711**

BLACK female, 35, GSOH, caring, loving, kind, seeks male. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376611**

I don't wanna be alone and unattached for another Xmas! Bev, attractive, big hearted, many interests, seeks male willing to take an interest in me! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376593**

KAZ 32yr old intellectual mixed race female, likes gym, meals in/out, seeks reliable, honest male, 38-58yrs to get to know for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376591**

NATALIE blonde blue eyed nurse, 39yrs medium build, no ties, life is good but I'm missing someone to love and lust after. Can you help? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376589**

DONNA 26yrs, blue eyes, blonde, bored of spending nights in alone, looking for average looking male, 23-55yrs for TLC. Dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376563**

TALL long haired brunette, slim attractive, big green eyes, WLTM gent for mutual companionship, maybe leading to more. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376559**

MIA attractive slim fit female looking for someone to put the spark back in my life, seeking fun, adventurous and passionate male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376557**

ANITA 58, 5ft 3ins, auburn hair, green eyes, likes swimming, bowling, shows, holidays, walks, seeks male. Sittingbourne. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387416**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, dvds, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159**

FULL time vacancy arisen for open minded male seeking uncomplicated relationship with slim professional 39yr old female with wicked sense of humour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374157**

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. Thanet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217**

ELIZABETH independent, no ties, solvent, fit and healthy, looking for similar passionate male, any age/looks for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375161**

SANDRA green eyed slim brunette, loves to keep fit, very competitive, seeks reliable mature male who can look after me and be loved in return. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375159**

LIDDY 28yr old genuine kind hearted girl looking for older male, 34-46yrs who can replace the other half of me that's missing. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375157**

ALICIA attractive petite female 22yrs, new to dating scene and area, loves nights in/out, WLTM male for adult fun. ACA. can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375135**

FOLKESTONE lady 57, likes animals, walks, drinks, good food, passionate, seeks likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375927**

SUSIE from Kent, seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**

TRISHA teacher, blonde, attractive, uncomplicated, undemanding, non materialist, well travelled, likes reading, walking, laughing, seeks tall, professional man, 60ish for simple joys. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375741**

JANE passionate lady seeking unconventional young at heart male 35-50 for free spirited, open-minded fun and new experiences. Single dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375611**

GENUINE honest, curvy lady modern, smart, friendly, seeking genuine gent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376275**

HELEN, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243**

LYN 58, likes meals out, cinema, holidays, coast, theatre, shows, countryside, pubs, N/S, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376187**

REBECCA brown hair/eyes, medium build, shy, likes animals, N/S, likes cosy nights in, walks, gardening, cuddles, seeks male in the Canterbury area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375995**

JACQUELINE 48, medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks male, 40-58 for friendship, maybe more. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370747**

ACTIVE slim female 30yrs, easy-going, honest with GSOH and a passion for life looking for genuine man to fall for, 28-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370097**

TANYA 35, Canterbury, brown hair/eyes, no ties, likes nights in/out, cuddles, TLC, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387220**

SUE 54, tactile, loving, fun, seeks genuine, loving guy to share good times. Thanet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373321**

VALERIE fun loving, late 60's, widow, slim, blonde, N/S, GSOH, likes walks, meals out, looking for similar male for relationship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373205**

LIBBY 36, newly single, no hang-ups, WLTM outgoing male to wine/dine and forever be mine. Don't miss out! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375607**

TASHA 37, blonde tanned and very pretty, seeks well dressed older male with GSOH for fun meets, loving treats and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375605**

LESLIE 34yr old singleton, fun and vivacious looking for laughs/giggles with some great company. If you like the sound of me, pls call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375579**

ANITA 58, green eyes, auburn hair, 5ft 3ins, likes shopping, holidays, cinema, shows, seeks male. Sittingbourne. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374745**

ANNA 5ft 4ins, 63, N/S, seeks N/S, genuine man for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374589**

JULIE pretty 38yr old Irish female who is lonely as new to the area, looking for male up to 65yrs for tactile companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374705**

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty fit size 10 with lots of interest, searching for a sincere man to share love and life with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374703**

JENNY very young shy black female looking for reliable, genuine nice older man to help me become an attentive lover, 40-70yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374701**

HELLO I'm Jane, attractive, genuine, caring, intelligent, romantic and single at 38yrs, what are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374677**

CAROL slim, blue eyed attractive lady looking for fun friendship maybe more with open minded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374675**

KAREN 36, pretty blonde who is stuck in a rut looking for easygoing kinda guy for romantic meals and fun drives out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374673**

LINDA slim green eyed brunette WLTM independent, good looking, fun, outdoorsy type guy with no ties for easygoing relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374133**

LISA 19 curvy brown eyed brunette looking for a fun relationship with caring male up to 67yrs who will appreciate and look after me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374131**

LYNNE slim, scatty blonde, mid 50's, looking for some fun and company. Margate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386428**

LORNA 66, loving, 5ft 4ins, seeks similar gent, 60-70. Hythe. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387162**

LUCY bubbly attractive 32yr old blonde seeking similar naughty boy to share the good side of life with. Age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373109**

AFRICAN female, likes cooking, travel seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386712**

ATTRACTIVE petite oriental female with no ties WLTM nice respectable man for a loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371577**

CONFIDENT and cultured lady, young 39, very attractive, slim and fit seeks mature male, 45-65yrs for wining, dining and more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371575**

36YR old professional, blue eyes, blonde, smiley, OHAC WLTM special guy for nights in with lots of cuddles and love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371549**

BARBARA 46, seeks nice, stocky male up to 50 for friendship, maybe more. Heathrow. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361701**

HI I'm Louise, an easygoing sensual slim blonde looking for someone to have fun with initially maybe more later. Call me. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373009**

CAROLINE size 16, seeks kind, honest, loving gent, 45 plus for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371099**

PAULINE 38, teacher, easygoing, friendly, likes films, walks, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387358**

ANITA 58, auburn hair, green eyes, 5ft 3ins, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374009**

PAM nice lady, looking for special male who is genuine with GSOH to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387332**

CLAUDIA curvy size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611**

CASSIE looking for good times, laughs, meals out with down to earth male, 30-65yrs who is looking for fun not commitment. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375577**

CAROL 39yrs attractive slim brunette just looking for genuine caring man for romance, meals in and maybe more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375575**

SOCIABLE cuddly 70's lady, GSOH, N/S, likes cinema, days out, coast, seeks genuine male for friendship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369297**

I'M Gorgeous, lively seeking a similar professional who thinks he can handle me, good times guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369223**

STUNNING blonde nurse, 32, funny and romantic, WLTM uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-65yrs for companionship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369221**

AMANDA cuddly 36yr old easygoing caring lonely female just looking for love with nice guy, 30-55yrs. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375133**

SASHA 28yr old beautiful surfer babe looking for fun initially, maybe more with fit confident male who can handle me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375131**

LIFE begins at 40! Pam outgoing athletic brunette, tall, slender and attractive, WLTM older male with big personality for lots of fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374155**

ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359589**

FOLKESTONE lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, medium build, likes walks, good food, seeks caring, affectionate male, large build to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371399**

LISA N/S, easygoing, friendly, bubbly, petite, likes swimming, football, walking, holidays, pubs, seeks male to share interests with. Eltham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372595**

KATHY attractive single mum 25, slim, dark hair/eyes, fed up with being alone, looking older male for mutual TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372661**

EM attractive lady, mild mannered, nice nature, looking for happy times and loving future with appreciative man. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372659**

SUSAN 38, affectionate outgoing medium built brunette, seeking tall male with GSOH for cosy evenings in with a good wine. Status/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374135**

LONELY Folkestone lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, medium build, N/S, seeks caring, considerate male for walks by the sea and pubs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371067**

CARING female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, seeks male, 60-70 for friendship, maybe more. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369593**

SUSIE 5ft 7ins, blonde, seeks educated attractive male for loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385476**

34YR old blonde new to the area, seeking younger guy for fun times maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365079**

FUN loving curvy red head 32yrs, loves good food/wine, WLTM male who appreciates a real woman and knows what he likes. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365077**

WARM well educated 60's female, seeks similar gent to enjoy the simple things of life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360477**

ATTRACTIVE and any man's dream seeks, outgoing, professional male for evenings in and fun nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366703**

CUTE very curvy young girl, 18, WLTM romantic guy for lots of fun and loving. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366699**

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501**

ACTIVE solvent female with GSOH looking to start life again but this time be a lot more adventurous, care to join me? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370181**

CONFIDENT fun female bored of spending time alone, looking for fun man to share lots of laughs and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370177**

LADY 56, semi disabled, size 18, seeking a caring, loving, honest gent, 50 plus. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365453**

LYNNE slim, scatty blonde, mid 50's, looking for some fun and company. Margate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386428**

CLAIRE Gorgeous fun loving brunette, 29, 5ft 4ins, employed, OHAC, looking for manly male up to 45yrs for no strings good times and fine wine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373107**

26YR old Indian princess looking for discreet older N/S professional male to make life a bit more interesting and share mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373089**

SHEILA caring 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, seeks male, 60-70 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373555**

34YR old single mum of 2, size 16, caring, cuddly, seeks genuine, loving male with GSOH. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386268**

FED up with lonely nights in! 33yr old brunette with green eyes WLTM someone 35-50yrs for TLC maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368913**

BEAUTIFUL blue eyed blonde, 26, slim, looking for evenings out with male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368911**

22YR old leggy blonde, seeking likeminded man for lots of fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368909**

SLIM attractive, elegant female, likes travel, restaurants, cinema, seeks caring, male, 45-55 for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361571**

PAT 70's, 5ft, cuddly, seeks male for friendship and days out. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369521**

JACKIE 48, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more, preferably a smoker. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368039**

ATTRACTIVE mature, outgoing Caribbean female, seeks interesting companion for socialising, good conversation and glass of wine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367799**

YOUNG 60 something female looking for friendship only with likeminded ladies for meals out, nights out and holidays. Feltham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367625**

Men Seeking

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Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 or call 0906 781 4392

(T&C's below)

CHRIS 67, N/S, widower, likes music, DIY, in need of TLC, seeks outgoing lady in her 60's. Folkestone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376901**

RONALD seeks someone 50-58, blond who likes mini skirts, pubs, tv, holidays etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376827**

JAMES intelligent, lively, professional writer, 54, based in Canterbury, kind, witty, no children/baggage, seeks lively lady, 35-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376787**

GERRY 5ft 4ins, medium build, blue eyes, likes gym, walks, cycling, holidays, dining in/out, seeks lovely female to share time with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376775**

JAMES professional, 50's, 5ft 10ins, well travelled, seeks sensual, feminine, slim lady, 35-52, any race. Croydon. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376723**

THOMAS 65, well dressed, solvent, seeks English/Irish lady for company, maybe more. Bromley. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376695**

RICHARD 46, single, dark hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, 5ft 6ins, likes theatre, holidays, music, countryside, beach walks, seeks female, 38-61 for LTR. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376677**

MARK 46, average build, broad-minded, seeking similar female for daytime fun and regular meets. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376615**

EASYGOING solvent, good looking, athletic guy, Kent, 45, loves life, enjoys fun, looking for easygoing, fun relationship with attractive female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376607**

DAVID easygoing, personable 58, 6ft, slim, blue eyes, clean shaven, loyal, tactile, seeks female 30-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376467**

DAVE fun loving, professional, likes wining, dining, travel, seeks warm, fun loving female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. Gillingham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387874**

ALAN 49, 5ft 9ins, good looking, likes holidays, cinema, restaurants, seeks attractive, slim female with GSOH for fun and possible romance. Bexley Heath. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375539**

DEAN 40, 6ft 3ins, medium build, seeks honest female for fun and friendship together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387696**

IAN widower, mid 60's, Herne Bay, genuine, seeks genuine lady to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375437**

MALE 43, tall, dark, GSOH, generous, seeks female, 30-43. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387686**

IAN 58, 5ft 7ins, slim, seeking female, 37-48 for genuine relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375099**

MUHAMMAD tall, medium build, middle aged man, seeking female friend for company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375049**

MARTIN 42, likes pubs, clubs, meals out, keep fit, OHAC, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. Dover. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375001**

TOM easygoing, well dressed, solvent, kind, seeks nice lady for company, hopefully more. Bromley. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375921**

JAMES professional, seeking female for fun times. Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375913**

HARRY 47, 5ft 10ins, medium build, black/grey hair, likes walks, swimming, chatting, seeks honest, caring female, 40-55 for friendship, maybe more. Chatham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387740**

IRVING 71, N/S, keeps fit, seeks N/S, slim, attractive lady for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375863**

MARK 36, seeks caring, understanding female for friendship and more. Canterbury. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375815**

DAVID seeks female, 45-57, slim-medium build, adventurous for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387730**

MARK handsome, athletic, understanding, 45, seeks discreet female for no strings fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387718**

RONALD retired, 5ft 9ins, fit, active, seeks lady, 60-70 for friendship, maybe LTR. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376357**

ANDY 45 likes bowling, rugby, nights in/out, dvds, wine, looking for female, 40-45 for friendship and LTR. Gravesend. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376309**

COLIN widower mid 70's, 6ft 2ins, slim, grey hair, likes walks, music, cinema, seeks female, 62-69 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376229**

Gay Seeking

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY601** to **65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service.

Go online - www.localgay-date.co.uk

MICHAEL 64, N/S, fit, retired, own home, seeks CD, 30-70 to be a wife type person. Dartford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376401**

PETER 64, 5ft 8ins, grey hair, retired, fit, 14st, likes CD, seeks fit, assertive male, 40-70 for daytime fun. Dartford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375935**

Contact members by phone: 0906 515 7112

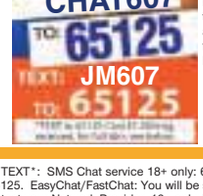
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EXHIBITIONS & **EVENTS**

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Fifty years of Motown hits

The main man

Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Saturday, October 8
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk



THE multi-award-winning Motown On Tour, featuring original Drifters member Roy G Hemmings, heads to The Orchard Theatre this month.
The show is a celebration of 50 years of Motown, with hits by The Supremes, Martha Reeves And The Vandellas, The Four Tops, The Temptations, Marvin Gaye, The Jacksons, Stevie Wonder, Lionel Ritchie and many many more artists.
Frontman Roy G Hemmings, right, is the longest-serving former member of The Drifters and has appeared at prestigious venues around the world, including at The White House for then-president Bill Clinton. This action-packed evening show features tribute acts The Love Supremes and The Tops & Tempts.



The Pilgrim's Progress

Classic work

The Stag centre, Sevenoaks
Thursday, October 20
01732 450175
www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk

THE Saltmine Theatre Company is delighted to announce that its latest theatre production, The Pilgrim's Progress, to be performed at The Stag Theatre.
Set in the Industrial Revolution, Saltmine's adaptation of John Bunyan's classic work promises to bring this extraordinary story to life for a new generation.
The production has already been performed at 16 regional theatres around the UK to great acclaim.
Follow the main character Christian and his companions as they set out on a dangerous adventure, a journey that will see him meet both friends and enemies along the way.
With challenges great and small on his path, will he ever reach the Heavenly City?
First published in 1678, The Pilgrim's Progress is regarded as one of the most significant works of English literature.
Bunyan drew on his own spiritual journey to create a story giving comfort to those experiencing struggles in their own lives.
The show will be suitable for everyone aged 12 and over. Children younger than 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

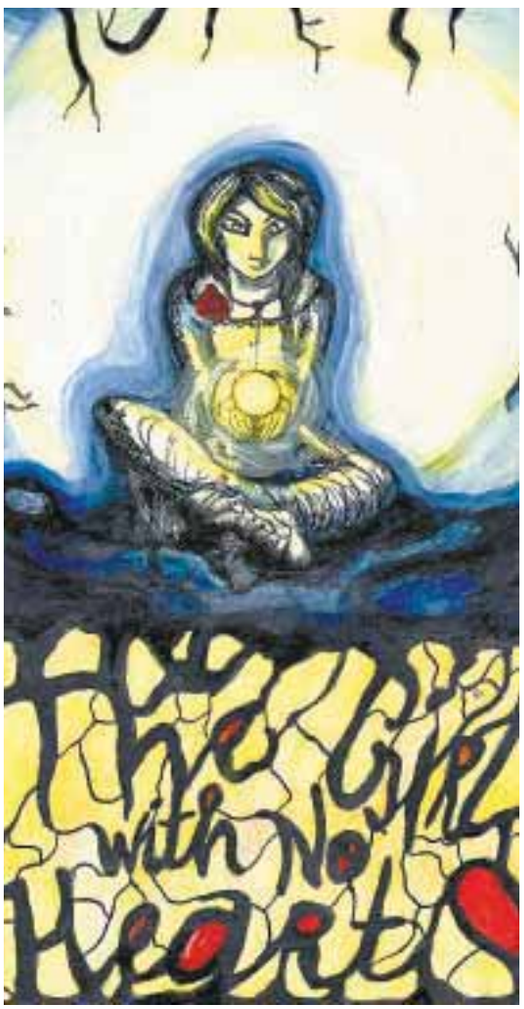
Magic tricks and mirth

Combo show

The Horsebridge centre, Whitstable
Friday, October 7, at 8pm
01227 281174

HAVE you heard the one about the accountant who went into showbiz? Ian Keable combines mind-boggling magic and comedy to make an original if not unpredictable show.
This remarkable entertainer will bring his funny tricks and quick wit to The Horsbridge centre in Whitstable for one night only.
His aim, he says, is a show where the laughs are as memorable as the magic.
And he seems to be getting it right. Keable has recently been voted the British Magical Champion Of Comedy and has also received The Magic Circle Comedy Award.
In his show, Funny Tricks, Keable will demonstrate some of the techniques he uses to mystify his audience.
The show is aimed at adults and children aged 12 and over and will feature mind-reading, bewildering sleight of hand and, above all, in his own words, his "trademark, laugh-out loud comedy magic".
One reviewer described Keable's show as ideal for anyone who enjoys non-stop laughter while simultaneously being totally bamboozled; another simply said it was "mind-boggling".
Tickets cost £8, or £6 for concessions, and extracts from some of Keable's previous shows are available at www.magicalcomedian.co.uk/video.html.





Players' new showcase

Puppet story

The Brook Theatre, Chatham
Throughout October
01634 338338
www.medwayticketslive.co.uk

A NEW creative company takes up residence at The Brook Theatre in Chatham this month.
Sparkle and Dark's Travelling Players focus on creative visual performances, mainly using puppetry, other types of animation and live music.
The company produces original shows to tour small-scale venues and festivals, holds workshops for puppet-building and takes puppet commissions.
Medway Council's Verne Sanderson said: "It's fantastic to have another talented company taking up residence at the theatre.
"The Brook really is a creative factory and is renowned for showcasing high-quality original shows."
Sparkle and Dark's first showcase performance, The Girl With No Heart, is on Wednesday, October 5, at 7.45pm.
In a world destroyed by war, the children rebuild what they can, one paper brick at a time.
The work features puppetry, live music and storytelling.
Tickets are priced at £5.

Commuting pays dividends

IT PAYS to have a one-hour commute to London, according to a Halifax study into property and rail prices.

Commuting to London is cheaper than living and working in the city, according to research showing that those who live in Kent pay substantially less for their home.

Residents who travel an hour to work benefit from house prices that are up to 60 per cent, or £375,000, less than those in London, according to the survey.

The research found that paying cheaper accommodation costs substantially offsets the average yearly cost of a train ticket.

According to the survey, property prices about an hour's commute from central London, in cities such as Rochester, were about £245,000.

This was in "significant contrast" to the average property value in central London, which was about £620,000.

In comparison, the average annual rail cost of £4,400 from these areas in the 'one-hour zone' is relatively small.

Other Kent towns within the hour commute include Canterbury, Sittingbourne and Maidstone.

It also found that a 30-minute commute is significantly cheaper. House prices in places such as Sevenoaks were valued on average at £275,000. The average annual rail pass cost is about £3,100.

Because of the high-speed rail link, Ashford is also now only a few minutes over the half-hour mark.



ON TRACK: House prices were up to 60 per cent cheaper an hour's commute from London

Nitesh Patel, housing economist at Halifax, said that for many commuters a big factor in living outside of London was about having a better "quality of life".

He said: "Commuters to London tend to get a lot more for their money than in central London [with] bigger houses for lower prices.

"Nonetheless, the decision to commute is not simply a trade-off between financial costs and journey times. Quality of life is also important."

Solicitors issue 'buddy' warning for first home

HOME-BUYERS who 'buddy up' with a friend or relative to afford their first home must factor in all worst-case scenarios before buying, say Thanet solicitors Boys & Maughan.

The business, which earlier this year secured membership to the Law Society's prestigious Conveyancing Quality Scheme (CSQ), which recognises high standards in home-buying, says that failing to plan for all eventualities, even death, could leave you in difficulty.

The head of conveyancing at Boys & Maughan, Peter Rodd, said: "With home loans less accessible than a few years ago, joining up with a friend or relative to buy a home is a good alternative.

"However, there is more to consider when buying this way. There is a high possibility that one party to the joint ownership's circumstances could change, so it is vital to consult your solicitor early on to cater for every possible change in circumstance.

"Circumstances when buying jointly are more likely to change. If you buy with a friend and they subsequently marry or change jobs, they might want to move on and not be tied down by the property they own jointly with you.

"Or if you buy with a family member who doesn't reside there, but who dies and leaves their share to someone else, you may need to factor that into any initial agreement.

"When it is difficult, as now, to raise a deposit and secure a mortgage on your own, buddying up is an excellent way to get a foot on the property ladder, but it needs to be done with legal advice from a CQS-accredited firm."

CHAMPION & CO

The Green, Saltwood
Hythe, Kent CT21 4PS

SALTWOOD



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Price guide £840,000 Freehold

SALTWOOD



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£500,000 Freehold

ALDINGTON



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SANDGATE



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£205,000 Freehold

HYTHE



Ground floor apartment, 2 beds, 2 bath/showers, electronic gated entrance, allocated and visitor parking, communal gardens, sea views to front.

£185,000 Leasehold

STANFORD



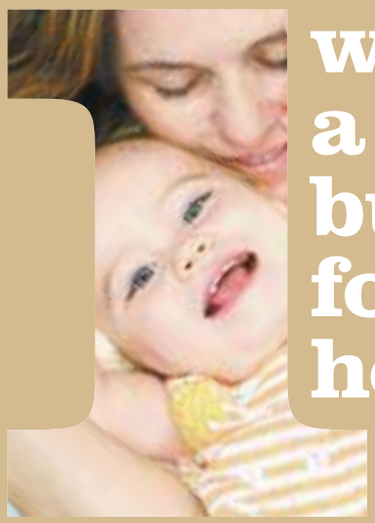
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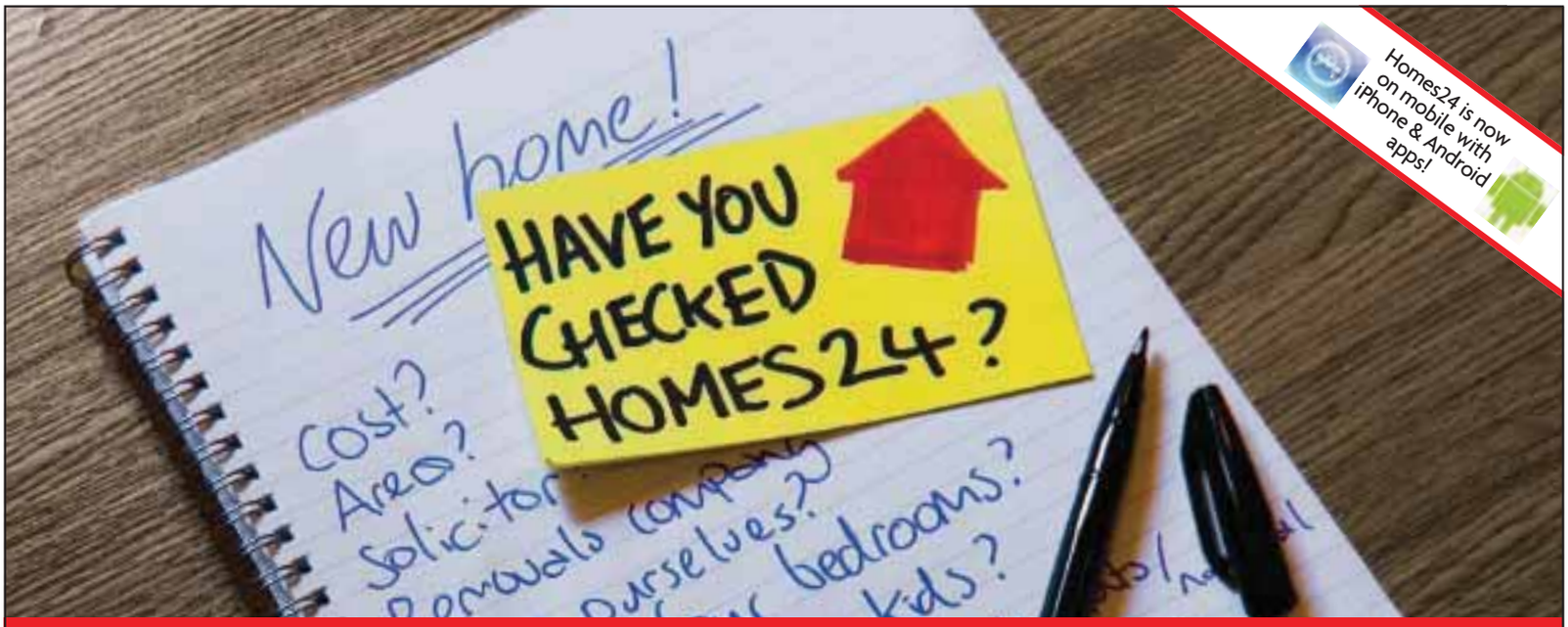
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First GEAR
MOTORING NEWS

- BMW releases new Coupé into Mini family
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Heads sure to turn as new Zafira Tourer hits the streets

Driving

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High and mighty i30

Car that spawned Hyundai's success proves that reliability counts



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Model shown for illustration purposes only. Finance subject to status, terms and conditions may apply. * including deposit allowance when using Ford Credit. Metallic paint available at extra cost.



Hyundai has eyes on prize

By Sam Davison
editorial@archant.co.uk

HYUNDAI will launch an eye-catching yet practical Veloster coupé in November.

The Korean marque – heading what is the world's fifth biggest-selling motor group – already has a stylish new i40 sporting estate on the market and dealers are struggling to cope with demand for its ix35 SUV crossover.

Second-hand prices are rising, too, as the trade and buyers recognise the increasing quality of the cars as well as value, backed by a five-year/unlimited warranty that is rarely called upon.

It all shows how far the Korean motor manufacturer has come in just a few years and it's not hard to gauge the turning point either – the launch of the i30 model in 2007, which we road-tested here.

It was the first of a series of all-new mainstream European-style Hyundais wearing the 'vowel that wowed the world' after success with the prefix to Apple computers' wave of gadgets – the iPod, iMac and iPad.

To be honest, many observers thought Hyundai's marketing a bit cheeky: the i30 was hardly an Apple-style mould-breaker, but it was a giant step for the carmaker with fluid styling, good powertrains and an interior that finally looked good as well as being robust and hard-wearing.

If the i30 didn't match the leaders of the day such as the Ford Focus, Vauxhall Astra and VW Golf, it wasn't exactly asking you to break the bank to buy it and there was a bonus; having chosen to pinch the iPod's prefix for its new line-up, Hyundai wisely ensured that an iPod or equivalent MP3-player really worked in the car – it 'plugged'n'played' straight away when most others didn't without fiddling... or experiencing complete failure.

Since then the car has had a facelift, largely confined to streamlining the range and tweaking the powertrains, introducing a 'stop and go' ISG economy feature for those who want a model that will quickly shut down and restart the engine in slow-moving traffic.

The powerful 2.0-litre diesel is no more and the 108bhp 1.4-litre petrol remains a favourite for those attracted by the i30's £13,580 entry price and there's a 124bhp petrol unit if you really must have an automatic, but the dominant engine remains the 1.6-litre diesel unit.

It is tested here in its comparatively new 88bhp output form in thrifty yet well-equipped Classic trim (£14,895 as standard or £15,100 with ISG) and it's a car you can buy and forget about, knowing that it has a reputation for reliability, backed by that cast-iron warranty should the gods not be with you.

It is not the liveliest (0-62mph in 14 seconds), but that is balanced by average fuel consumption well over 60mpg and band C road tax – zero in year one and £30 thereafter. The ISG version will save even more, averaging nearer 70mpg and zero/£20 respectively.

The engine rarely betrays that it is diesel – usually when cold or under extreme pressure – but is mostly refined in all modes and being particularly good at fast economical motorway in sixth gear.

Ride comfort is good, though this underlines that the i30 is not really set up for the sharp handling of dearer rivals like the Focus and co.

On the other hand, it is more than a match for a number of noted and, again, more expensive rivals and demonstrates Hyundai's progress in the UK and Euro markets.

For those who want a decent, reliable car at a sensible price, the i30 is also going to be easy to live with due to a sensible well-arranged dashboard, spacious cabin and rear seats that fold flat easily and quickly to swallow big loads.

HYUNDAI i30 1.6CRDi CLASSIC: PRICE £14,895



LITTLE GEM: Hyundai's i30 is more than a match for a number of its more noted rivals and is backed up by the Korean company's five-year/unlimited warranty

FACT FILE

Image:	★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Reliabilty:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	zero then £30/year
Best rival:	Mazda3

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Now five-star Mini line-up

IT IS the most unlikely brand extension and a real conversation piece, but BMW Mini has produced a two-seater sports car spin-off from its hatchback original.

The new Coupé, out now, takes the range to five models including the Convertible, Clubman and Countryman. The sawn-off shape with active rear spoiler is priced from £16,640.



A double play from Nissan

NISSAN has revised drivetrains on two key engine options for its Juke supermini crossover.

The 117bhp1.6-litre petrol and 110bhp 1.5-litre dCi diesel manual have been tweaked to cut emissions and fuel, saving up to £232.47 in fuel over three years – the move does not affect prices (from £13,395) and both now save on road tax by dropping down a band.



Savings with Prius Plug-in

TOYOTA has announced a start price of less than £31,000 for its Prius Plug-in Hybrid version, arriving in early 2012.

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08 2008 Renault Twingo 1.2 GT 3-door Hatchback, 11,800 miles, Black Was: £6,495 **Now: £5,995**
08 2008 Volkswagen Polo 1.2 E 70PS 3-door Hatchback, 28,300 miles, Grey Metallic **£5,995**
08 2008 Renault Kangoo 1.2 Authentique 5-door MPV, 22,200 miles, Ottoman Blue **£5,995**
08 Fiat Panda 1.1i Active 5-door Hatchback, 22,000 miles, June 2008, Silver **£4,995**
57 2008 Ford Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-door Hatchback, 25,700 miles, Ocean Blue Was: £5,495 **Now: £4,995**
08 2008 Fiat Panda 1.1i Active 5-door Hatchback, 22,000 miles, Silver **£4,995**
05 2005 Vauxhall Astra 1.8 Club 5-door Hatchback Automatic, 34,100 miles, Star Silver Metallic **£4,995**
03 2003 Volkswagen Sharan SL 2.0 5-door MPV Automatic, Blue, 85,200 miles. **£4,995**
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Lexus aiming to change premium middle sector

LEXUS has announced a new styling direction for its range with the latest generation GS – the Japanese premium brand's answer to the BMW 5-Series, Audi A6 and Mercedes-Benz E-Class.

Due here early next year, Lexus says the new car will not only change the look of its cars but also herald more emphasis on the driving experience – an area where the Toyota luxury brand is seen to struggle against the best German rivals.

If it can pull it off, though, this GS could be a breakthrough model for Lexus, adding driver satisfaction to the marque's undoubted quality and value – all Lexus models come generously loaded with equipment.

The new GS has a wider stance than the current car and a more spacious interior yet virtually the same dimensions as currently – nobody wins custom in carmaking nowadays by going bigger than before.

UK buyers will be offered two models: the GS 450h full petrol-electric hybrid or GS 250 petrol.

The new range includes more use of aluminium to cut weight and boost nimbleness and ride comfort.

The GS also boasts a sexier grille, which Lexus says will become the new face of the brand and there is even a new paint palette designed to make the various colours shimmer more and complement the car's sleeker lines.

Standard kit includes reversing camera, 10 airbags – including knee airbags for both driver and front passenger – enhanced Bluetooth connectivity for onboard phone use and the usual premium sound/vision system expected of the brand, with a 17-speaker Mark Levinson system also available.

Prices for the new GS are expected to start at about £45,000.



LOOKING THE PART: Lexus hopes its new-look GS will herald more emphasis on the driving experience, an area in which it has struggled



Zafira Tourer poses question

VAUXHALL is about to answer a difficult question but in doing so poses a new one with the imminent launch of the stylish new Zafira Tourer MPV.

The original question was: how does the General Motors brand counter the success of the sporty Ford S-Max, romping ahead in the seven-seat sporty people-carrier segment?

Well, the new Tourer is a stunning riposte and puts the Ford under further pressure with an entry price of £21,000, undercutting the S-Max by £1,200.

But in launching the Tourer, Vauxhall now poses a question mark over the standard Zafira, launched in 2005 and now in its twilight years.

Vauxhall insists that the Tourer is not a replacement and that both models will be sold alongside one another – at least for now.

However, they are similar in what they do, promoting speculation that when the current Zafira gets the chop the name will transfer to a new chunky crossover replacement like the Nissan Qashqai, also neatly avoiding the need for Vauxhall's conspicuously unsuccessful and over-priced Antara SUV.

Back with the Zafira Tourer, we find that, despite aggressive pricing against the S-Max, the ES 1.8 140PS (138bhp) entry model comes with decent kit including air-con, digital radio and MP3/Aux connectivity, cruise control, six airbags, a seven-speaker sound system, active headrests and Vauxhall's Flex7 seating – all five rear seats fold flat to the floor.

The svelte design is another from the blueprint created by Vauxhall/Opel's British design guru Mark Adams, the man behind the European Car Of The Year-winning Insignia and the latest Astra, which came close to that coveted award.

But if the Tourer does its Ford rival for style, it must walk the talk on the driving front. Vauxhall insists it will with a new chassis and wide track, delivering good driving dynamics as well as ride comfort.

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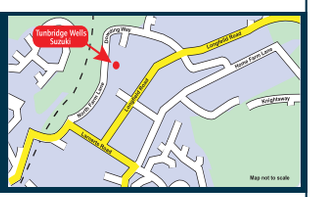
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Official fuel consumption figures for the Suzuki Range: Extra Urban 74.3=38.2mpg (3.8-7.4/100km). Urban 51.4-25.0mpg (5.5-11.3/100km). Combined 64.2-32.1mpg (4.4-8.8/100km) CO2 emissions 103-205g/km
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Vehicles shown feature metallic paint at an extra cost Spark £375, Orlando £410. Offer available on vehicles registered between 1st July and 30th September 2011. Available at participating Dealers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Available on UK supplied vehicles. 5 year warranty up to 100,000 miles, expires whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment of a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. Years 4 and 5 are an insurance-backed warranty up to a maximum of 100,000 miles. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. 5 year warranty is available on retail registrations only. Models shown in the thumbnails are not all UK specification and therefore not currently available in the UK. Vehicles currently available in the UK are Spark, Cruze, Orlando and Captiva. For more information visit www.chevrolet.co.uk. Prices correct at time of press. Calls may be recorded and monitored for training purposes

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Orlando 1.8 LS: Urban - 29.1 (9.7), Extra Urban - 47.9 (5.9), Combined - 38.7 (7.3). CO_2 emissions 172g/km. Cruze 1.6 LS Hatchback: Urban - 31.7 (8.9), Extra Urban - 54.3 (5.2), Combined - 42.8 (6.6). CO_2 emissions 153g/km.

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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.9 (10.9) - 61.4 (4.6), Extra Urban 39.8 (7.1) - 74.3 (3.8), Combined 33.2 (8.5) - 67.3 (4.2) CO2 Emissions 225 - 99 g/km

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*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. Model shown is New Astra SRi 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 2 October 2011. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Calls may be recorded for training purposes only.

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CRICKET

As key trio quit, Willis defends Farbrace record

By David Pritchard
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Pictures: ADY KERRY



EXIT: Paul Farbrace (centre) departed as Kent's director of cricket this week and Martin van Jaarsveld (left) and Joe Denly have also gone

PAUL Farbrace's record as Kent's director of cricket has been defended by Simon Willis, the club's high performance director.

Farbrace left the club on Tuesday with 12 months still to run on his three year contract with the county. It was part of an unsettling day for supporters, with Joe Denly and Martin van Jaarsveld moving on to Middlesex and Leicestershire respectively.

Under Farbrace's leadership results have been underwhelming, with the team following up last season's relegation from Division One of the LV= County Championship by finishing second bottom this summer.

But given the context of tightening budgets as a consequence of Kent's grim financial results over the last two years, Willis feels Farbrace's tenure should not be viewed harshly.

"He's given youngsters opportunities and deep down all he wanted was for the club and the individuals to be successful," he said.

"He's had a bit of bad luck along the way with injuries and ultimately the team finishing second bottom of the championship wasn't ideal. He's given everything to the role, tried hard and who's to say if another person could have done any better? It was a challenging time for everybody at the club."

Willis, who is likely to become linked to the vacant post, was also sorry to see the departure of Denly and van Jaarsveld, who will leave a hole in Kent's batting line-up.

"Jarra has given 110 per cent to the club on the field during his time with us and has won many games, so clearly he is a big one to lose. Joe's just started to develop into that sort of cricketer and at 25 is coming into his peak years.

"From those points of view you're disappointed but you totally understand, everyone has career decisions to make."

Denly was in the first intake of the club's academy in 2003, going on to score more than 4,500 first class runs. The opener from Whitstable was sad to leave but felt Middlesex provided a better chance of returning to the England set-up.

"I'm committed to becoming the best player I can possibly be and firmly believe that the environment at Middlesex will help me achieve that and one day resurrect my prospects at international level," he said.

Van Jaarsveld hit more than 8,000 first class runs in seven seasons, becoming arguably Kent's most important player, but asked to be released from the final year of his deal, saying he needed a "new challenge".

SOUTH AFRICA LINE UP VISIT

KENT will host South Africa next July as part of the tourists' build-up to a Test series with England.

The Proteas, ranked second to Andrew Strauss' men in the Test world rankings, will visit Canterbury.

The three-day game, which will begin on Friday, July 13, will be South Africa's final warm-up game before taking on England.

Jamie Clifford, Kent's chief executive, said: "As their final fixture prior to the start of the Test series it promises to be a big occasion. A three-day game against one of the top sides in world cricket, in mid-July at the St Lawrence Ground – what could be better?"

It is likely to see the club reap a financial boost from the game, which should attract big crowds. Last month the St Lawrence Ground hosted India in a day/night game.

ATHLETICS

Olympics in sight after Overall marathon effort

A TERRIFIC marathon debut has put Scott Overall in the frame to represent Great Britain at the London Olympics next summer.

The Blackheath & Bromley Harriers athlete decided to step up from shorter distances after clocking lacklustre times on the track in May.

Overall, 28, made a dream start to his marathon career, finishing fifth in Berlin last Sunday with a time of 2:10.55, more than a minute inside the Olympic qualification standard.

He said: "Officially I'm not in the team yet but I'd like to think I will be when the first round of selections are made in December. I knew I was in shape but I was surprised with the time."

GOLF

Solheim joy tinged with frustration for Stupples

KAREN Stupples helped Europe to a memorable Solheim Cup victory last weekend but was denied a role on the final day's play due to an injury to her opponent.

The golfer from Deal was scheduled to play Cristie Kerr in the potentially pivotal final singles match, but the American pulled out with a wrist problem before the start, conceding the point.

Stupples, who lost her other two matches in Ireland, said: "I was ready to play and, if she hadn't been injured, I know she would have given it a good crack, too. I'm gutted, really, but that's how it is."

Europe won the trophy 15-13.

TOURING CARS

Airwaves Racing picture: NICK DUNGAN



HOME SOIL: Wrotham's Airwaves Racing (left) are hoping to turn a miserable run of form around at Brands Hatch this weekend, while Tony Gilham (right) is planning to use a new turbo charged engine for the first time

Touring Car battle set for Brands Hatch as Jackson clings to faint title chances

BRANDS Hatch will provide the backdrop as an enthralling battle for the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) title continues this weekend.

With just one more round to come after Sunday's three races on the 2.3-mile Grand Prix circuit it looks like being a three-way shoot-out for glory. Honda team-mates Gordon Shedden and Matt Neal head into the weekend level on points at the top, with defending champion Jason Plato still in contention 24 points behind.

As usual a bumper crowd is expected for the ever-popular series. Fans will have plenty of local interest, with Wrotham-based Airwaves Racing likely to figure prominently.

A dreadful sequence of results at the last two rounds have seen Mat Jackson's hopes for the overall title all but ended, although the independents' crown is still within reach.

The 30-year-old, who trails the leaders by 45 points, claimed two podium finishes and a fourth place in the season opener at Brands in April. He insists as long as the title remains a mathematical possibility there is hope.

"After two shocking weekends we now have nothing to lose so we have to go to Brands with one thing in mind; winning," he said.

"As far as titles are concerned, it sounds bad but the independent championship has never really featured on my radar. It's the overall championship that the team and I want and we have to keep fighting until the death and hope that the others' luck changes and, if the independent title comes home, then it's a bonus."

Dartford's Tony Gilham will also be on the grid. The 32-year-old has received an upgrade since the last round at Rockingham and is hoping to drive with a new turbo charged engine, a first for a BMW in the BTCC.

Gilham, driving for Geoff Steel Racing, was only due to decide on Friday whether it would be used this weekend.

He said: "If we arrive on track with the same looking car as last time around, you'll know it hasn't quite gone to plan."

FOOTBALL

Kedwell revels in new partnership as brace makes happy viewing

By David Pritchard
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LEAGUE Two highlights are back on the viewing agenda in Danny Kedwell's house after the Gillingham striker ended his wait for a goal from open play last weekend.

A brace in the 3-1 win against Burton Albion at Priestfield doubled his tally for the season. The 28-year-old's previous goals had come from the penalty spot and his lack of success from open play was beginning to frustrate the summer signing from AFC Wimbledon.

With the pressure relieved last Saturday, Kedwell was free to watch the highlights, which he had been avoiding during a barren spell in front of goal.

But rather than just a vain way to relive his glories, the striker saves the clips to use as a motivational tool.

"When I score I always record it and watch it a lot," he said.

"It's good because when you go through a spell when you're not scoring you can watch it back and feel the buzz I was getting at that time. It can give you a bit of help. I've always done it.

"All forwards go through bad patches. Through my career I've never gone through a bad patch at the beginning of the season like I've done here - I've always started well. It's good to watch those memories back and it just seems to give me that feeling again."

Kedwell is now a fifth of the way to the 20 goals he targeted for his first season with Gillingham and believes a change in formation will get the best out of him. An injury to strike partner Adam Birchall meant the target man started the season playing on his own up front.

While more than happy to fulfil the role for the good of the team, he feels supporters will see what he is capable of now Frank Nouble has arrived on loan, allowing Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler to play the strikers in tandem.

Kedwell said: "Now Frank's come in it's given me a bit of help and lets me show what I'm about. When I was playing on my own up front it was a bit difficult, I couldn't do what I'm good at, I had to do something for the team.

"As soon as Frank came in we just clicked, it was weird. As soon as went on to the training ground before the Hereford game we worked together really well. He scored the next day [in a 6-1 win] and then we both scored last week, so hopefully it carries on."

Kedwell also cleared up the celebration to his first goal against Burton, where he put a finger to his lips and appeared to shush the home fans in the Rainham End.

Picture: ADY KERRY



CRITICS: Danny Kedwell hushes his friends

He said: "That was for my mates. We all went together when I was a kid and grew up watching Gillingham. They've been giving me grief for weeks, saying 'any chance of scoring from open play?'. I knew they were in the corner and that's why I went over."

FOOTBALL

Forster has high hopes for Dover Athletic after another draw prompts Whites' board to sack disappointed Hayes

THE ambition of Dover Athletic was key to convincing Nicky Forster it was the right club to further his managerial career.

An eventful 48 hours at Crabble saw Martin Hayes sacked on Monday in the wake of a poor run which had seen the Whites slip to 12th in the Conference South table, with Forster agreeing a one-year contract on Tuesday.

The 38-year-old, whose long playing career included spells at Gillingham, Brighton and Reading, had been looking for a new post after a spell in charge as caretaker boss at Brentford last season and is relishing the chance to get his teeth into a first permanent role.

He said: "I was looking for the right job that matched my ambitions. I went for a couple of jobs and turned them down so it's nice to get something I'm energised about.

"Dover are a fantastic club with a really good foundation. The chairman has worked hard over the past few years to turn it round off the field. They're geared towards certainly the Conference [Premier] and the infrastructure is there to go beyond it."

Picture: ADY KERRY



NEW MAN: Nicky Forster, in action for Reading, has taken over at Dover

The move ended Hayes' 15-month spell with the Whites. The highlight was a thrilling FA Cup run which saw Gillingham and Aldershot Town beaten on the way to a third round tie at Huddersfield Town, but the league form was always the priority. After narrowly missing out on the play-offs last season, a run of just one win from eight games was critical and a 1-1 draw at home to Havant & Waterlooville last weekend provided the breaking point.

Hayes, who had been subjected to increasing criticism from the terraces, felt the negativity had begun to affect the players.

He said: "We had a few 0-0 draws which generate a lot of frustration. I was fully aware over the last two games the pressure was there to get some results but I was still confident and up until [last] Saturday I thought we were playing quite well. Supporters have an impact on what goes on and I think the players started to show the first signs of the pressure and maybe the stuff aimed at me started to affect them."

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS
WITH **FRED ATKINS**

'Silent majority' must speak out

IF Jim Parmenter didn't already know that being the chairman of a football club is an almost impossible job, he will do by now.

Parmenter felt compelled to defend his record as Dover's chairman last week, bemoaning the vitriolic abuse being showered on his team from a "vocal minority", only to give them precisely what they wanted on Monday by firing Martin Hayes.

The merits of that decision won't be known until the end of this season or perhaps beyond, but some of the reaction to the dismissal left a sour taste in the mouth.

In common with around 99.9 per cent of people who go into professional football, Hayes' career probably hasn't followed the trajectory he hoped it would.

As a striker he broke into the Arsenal first team aged 19, and was a key player in the side that won the 1987 League Cup final. Yet although he was on the field at Anfield in 1989, when Michael Thomas' last-minute goal won the Gunners the title, by that stage he was a fringe player who spent the next decade sliding down the leagues.

When the latest disappointment arrived Hayes himself reacted with his usual dignity, while Parmenter had the class to say: "It's a sad day to tell an honest and decent fellow he's out of a job."

There was ill-disguised glee at the news, with anonymous keyboard warriors posting messages that conveyed both puerile unpleasantness and a genuine sense of entitlement.

In one sense this is Parmenter's fault. When he took over at Crabble, the club were finding new leagues to get relegated into and £400,000 in debt.

The Whites are now solvent and playing in Conference South, but even if Dover do achieve promotion this year, he'll still have to perform an encore. And will the new manager get a season's grace before another "vocal minority" start calling for his head after a few bad results?

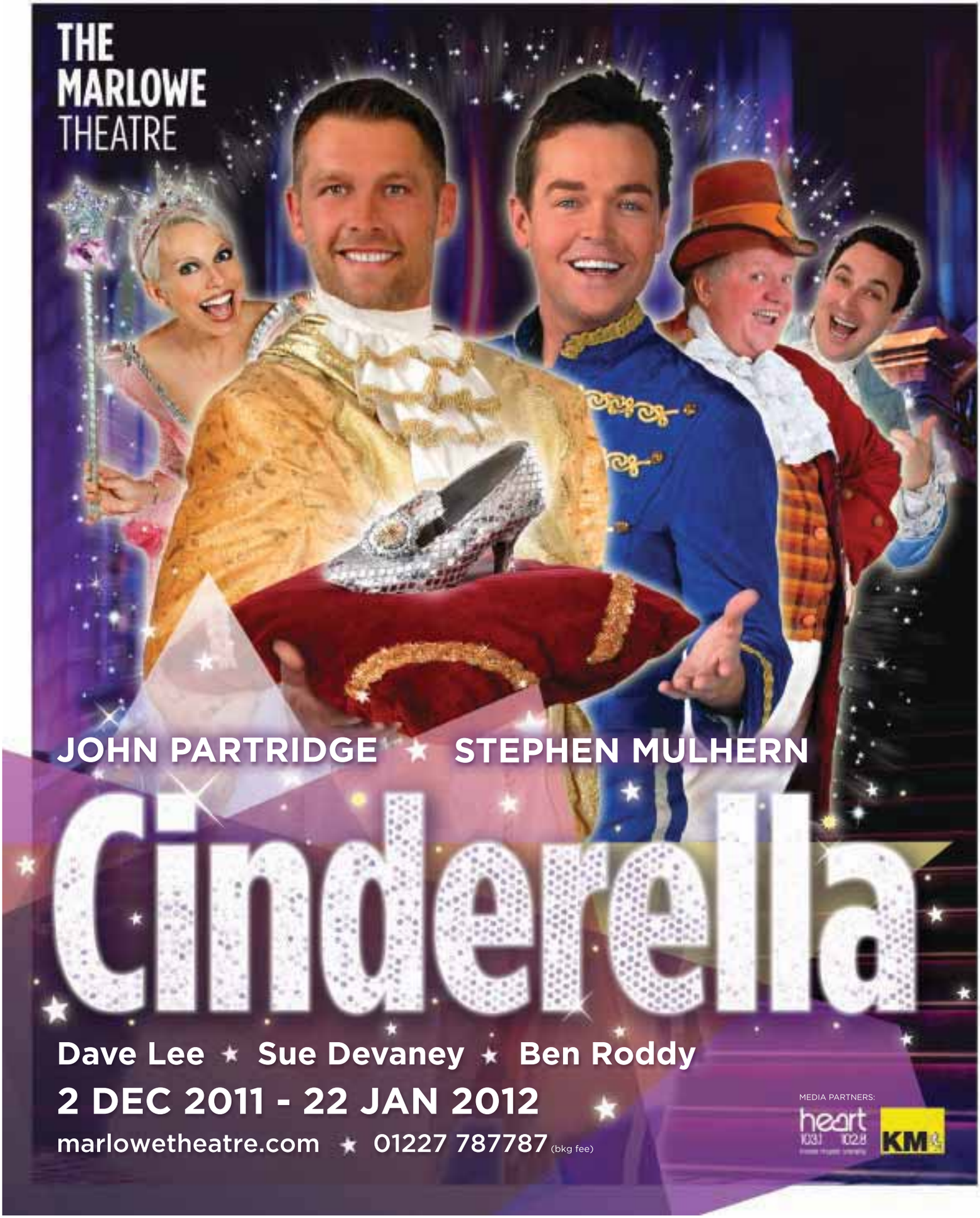
In the lower divisions you can go a long way with the money generated by a regular fan base of around 800, but the ease with which Andy Hessenthaler achieved successive promotions has made a rod for his successors' backs.

This can happen at any club.

On the same day that Hayes was being sacked, Maidstone were finally beginning work on their new stadium, 11 years after plans were first published. For this act alone the new owners ought to be given the freedom of the borough, but it isn't difficult to imagine a scenario in five years time when a chant of "sack the board" goes up from the uninitiated if the club fails to achieve some imagined target.

Before sacking Hayes, Parmenter spoke of the more balanced approach taken by a "silent majority" of fans at Crabble.

That, however, is the problem with silent majorities: they tend to stay silent.


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